

**CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 22, 2025**

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held using a hybrid format on February 22, 2025, with some members attending virtually and others attending at the Petaluma Community Center. Drew B. opened the meeting at 12:30 pm, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Julio F. from District 19 read the A.A. Preamble in Spanish, Kevin C. from District 01 read Tradition 1 in English, and Sara A. from District 08 read Concept 1 in English. We welcomed nine (9) new GSRs, eleven (11) new DCMs, and one (1) new DCMC. There were seven (7) past Delegates present: Barbara M. (P41), Bob D. (P36 A28), Diane O. (P35), Eric L. (P73), Joann L. (P67), Ken M. (P61) and Raymundo L. (P65). The January 2025 minutes were accepted after Jackie B. made a formatting correction to the version published in the *CNCA Comments*. The financial report was accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments* and *Comentarios*. **Attendance:** 156 total: 50 online and 106 in person. **Birthdays:** 93 years.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**DELEGATE – CHITRA S.:** The Spanish Service Manual (print edition) will be available in print on March 12. The International Convention will be in Vancouver from July 3 - 6, and our area needs a hospitality room chair. Online registration for [PRAASA](#) closes February 28. I emailed the Final Agenda Topics List (English and Spanish) to DCMCs and Committee Chairs. Background material is available at [cnca06.org/confidential](https://cnca06.org/confidential) (password: 1935). The 2025 background folder contains only this year's material; a separate 2024 folder holds all previous backgrounds. I serve on the Conference PI Committee and need your help. We're asking the fellowship "are we using 21st-century tools to reach 21st-century alcoholics? Are we reaching those who haven't yet entered our rooms?" We're reviewing A.A.'s media—app, podcast, social media, and PSAs—asking what works, what doesn't, and what should replace the discontinued young people's media.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – CLAUDIA N.:** While awaiting the remaining background and completed summaries, I am reviewing the final agenda topics and enjoying the buzz in the air as GSRs prepare for sharing sessions. I look forward to meeting with other Pacific Region Alternate Delegates at PRAASA. The CPC Desk at GSO has two requests: A.A. members who are military veterans willing to participate in an interview project and shared experience on cooperating with professionals serving neurodivergent and unhoused alcoholics (deadline: July 1, 2025). Send input to [cpc@aa.org](mailto:cpc@aa.org).

**CHAIR – DREW B.:** Unity! If things get spicy with another trusted servant in your group, district, or committee, try picking up the phone or attending a meeting together. All area committees have elected their Chairperson. Those not attending PRAASA can join me March 7 - 9 at NCCAA in Modesto. We need people for the General Service Panel on Saturday at 1:00 pm to make General Service so irresistible that NCCAA will never schedule its conference during PRAASA again!

**TREASURER – DAN B.:** January contributions were \$15K, exceeding the budget by \$1K. As expected early in the panel, expenses were low at \$4K. We paid the \$2,200 minimum to GSO for Delegate Expenses. The Finance Committee is considering whether to contribute more than the \$1,300 difference to CNCA's \$3,500 minimum. A motion may follow next month. The 2025 estimated cost is \$10,250. The Square-QBO integration issue continues, requiring manual transaction recording. Zelle reimbursements were successful after minor bank security holds.

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – MATT E.:** District 40 will present a bid to host the 2025 Summer Assembly at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center. District 03 will present a housekeeping motion to increase the Pre-Conference paper goods budget due to a county compost requirement. Tomorrow is the last day to book the special rate at the Courtyard Marriott. Free parking at the Pre-Conference will be limited; carpool and plan to use garage/street parking at a maximum cost of \$16 per day.

**REGISTRAR – SARAH B.:** I'm improving at using Airtable to maintain accurate records of groups and position holders in our Area, working with district registrars. So far, I've updated 439 position holder records, with 218 added to GSO and 50 groups to Airtable, 11 of which were registered with GSO as new groups. It's a lot of work, so I plan to streamline it. A virtual registrar workshop will take place on March 13. I hope all registrars attend, but I'm also available for one-on-one support. This service is rewarding and sometimes humorous—like discovering that District 04 has four different “single problem” men's groups!

**RECORDING SECRETARY – JACKIE B.:** Thanks to those who emailed their reports in advance. Edited reports will be shared via Google Docs for review before publishing. A new Area Motions Background document will list the upcoming motions with relevant history to help DCMCs and Committee Chairs gather an informed group conscience. The CNCA Comments began in 1977 — more history next month!

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – JOSE L.:** GSO's podcast *Our Primary Purpose* has six episodes. The Service Manual is available online in Spanish. *The Plain Language Big Book* is available for \$11—purchase locally to support Twelfth Step work. The Trustee's Literature Committee seeks two Appointed Committee Members to develop pamphlets for Asian / Asian-American and Transgender alcoholics. Candidates need five years of sobriety, A.A. service experience, and meeting availability. To apply, email [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org) by April 15. Jackie B. joins the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board. The 2025 AAWS Literature Catalog is free online; print copies cost \$5. Check out the Navajo Big Book on CD.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

**DISTRICT 01 (MONTEREY) – ELENA B.:** We passed travel reimbursement guidelines and established a standing Finance Committee. Several GSRs plan to attend the March ACM in person. We approved a proposed agenda item requesting A.A. create a public

information piece with consistent messaging and QR codes. GSR School meets every second Tuesday.

**DISTRICT 02 (SALINAS/SAN BENITO) – JUAN T.:** I was elected DCMC on February 5 at our first District 02 meeting. We also elected a registrar and treasurer.

**DISTRICT 03 (SANTA CRUZ) – RYAN A.:** We welcomed eight new GSRs and filled our Workshop Coordinator position. ACYPAA was a blast. We passed our 2025 budget and are recruiting non-General Service A.A. members to volunteer at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

**DISTRICT 04 (SANTA CLARA NORTH) – JON R.:** Our District meeting focused on the Agenda Topics process and available resources for GSRs. Our visiting officer discussed the importance of the Pre-Conference Assembly and what to expect. Our hybrid Agenda Topic Workshop, co-hosted with District 40, is on March 15 in San Jose. We elected a web committee chair, filling all our service positions except for a few DCM spots. For more information on district activities, including our Safety and Accessibilities Committees, visit [district04cnca.org](http://district04cnca.org).

**DISTRICT 40 (SANTA CLARA SOUTH) – PAM S.:** We learned how an idea becomes an Agenda Topic and approved our 2025 budget. In March, we're co-hosting an Agenda Topic Workshop with District 04. We paid a refundable deposit to book the proposed Summer Assembly venue, pending Area approval of our bid. We aim to keep communication flowing and learn what matters to our groups.

**DISTRICT 05 (SAN MATEO) – JONATHAN L.:** We are preparing GSRs for Agenda Topics and approved motions to co-host an Agenda Topics Workshop with District 06 on March 15 and provide food for attendees. We discussed improving our meeting agenda to engage new GSRs better and allocating our budget surplus, leading to a motion to fund attendance for the virtual component of the A.A. International Convention. We also appointed a District Treasurer.

**DISTRICT 06 (SAN FRANCISCO) – DAVID S.:** This month, our visiting Area Officer presented "Where Spirituality and Money Mix." Our new Accessibilities Committee is collaborating with Alateen. Planning is underway for the Post-Conference Assembly. District 05 will co-host our hybrid Agenda Topics Workshop on March 15, during which our District voted to discuss Report and Charter Item B. We elected a Chair for the Tech Hybrid Ad Hoc Committee, which will start by researching meeting locations. Discussion on Travel Reimbursement Guidelines will continue next month as we were not ready to vote.

**DISTRICT 07 (ALAMEDA NORTH) – BRIDGET L.:** We created a virtual subdistrict and elected a DCM and alternate DCM. The Bridging the Gap and PI/CPC committees are active. We approved the 2025 budget and awarded a PRAASA scholarship to a GSR. Our joint Agenda Topics Workshop with District 70 is on March 1. GSRs are planning sharing sessions as we await the final Agenda Topics list.

**DISTRICT 70 (ALAMEDA SOUTH)—CHASE C.:** Our visiting Area Officer presented the “Agenda Topics Process.” We gave each GSR a star lapel pin in gratitude for their service. Our Agenda Topics Workshop is on March 1; details are available at [valleyservicecenteraa.org](http://valleyservicecenteraa.org). We also awarded a \$1500 PRAASA scholarship.

**DISTRICT 08 (CONTRA COSTA) – CHUCK B:** Our March 1 Agenda Topics Workshop included speaker presentations and practice rounds. At our district meeting, the visiting Area Officer presented “I’m Here, NOW What?” We approved a support letter for EBYPAA’s roundup bid and passed motions to make PRAASA scholarships a pre-approved budget item and establish a standing Accessibilities Committee. We awarded a PRAASA scholarship to an Alternate GSR. Five of ten DCM positions are now filled.

**DISTRICT 09 (SOLANO SOUTH) – BILLIE JO C.:** Our *Plain Language Big Book* Workshop on February 16 was well attended, with a presenter answering questions about its history. This month’s District meeting had strong attendance, including two new GSRs. We plan to host three more workshops this year on various topics.

**DISTRICT 90 (SOLANO NORTH) – DEBRA M.:** We’re preparing for Unity Day on March 15 at 66 Vine St. in Vacaville. We now have a PI/CPC Chair, Bridging the Gap Chair, and a new Archivist. Excited for the year ahead as we navigate our commitments!

**DISTRICT 10 (MARIN) – FRANK T.:** Our January District meeting reviewed women’s safety in meetings with highlights from District 04’s safety survey, which surprised many GSRs. We covered the Agenda Topics timeline, process, and best practices, and GSRs were eager to implement what they learned in their meetings. In February, we held an in-depth safety discussion on meeting violence and conducted mock Agenda Topics sharing sessions, including how to report results at the Assembly microphone.

**DISTRICT 11 (NAPA) – DUNCAN L.:** We filled the Intergroup Liaison and Unity Day Chair positions. Unity Day will be on June 14 in Napa. Our Alternate DCMC stepped down to fill an open DCM position. Thank you to our visiting Area Officer for presenting on “The Conference Process and the Role of the GSR in Taking a Group Conscience.” A group submitted a proposed agenda item (PAI) to revise the *Plain Language Big Book*. We passed a floor action to grant a \$500 PRAASA scholarship.

**DISTRICT 12 (SONOMA) – MAUREEN G.:** Our February 15 Agenda Topics Workshop in Santa Rosa drew 130 attendees from seven districts. We created a Linktree for workshop materials. Sonoma County Intergroup seeks group consciences on selling non-Conference-approved literature at Central Office. Intergroup elections are next week, with all positions expected to turn over. Our Alternate DCMC position remains open.

**DISTRICT 13 (LAKE) – CHRIS W.:** Two new GSRs joined us, increasing the number of represented groups to seven. Bridging the Gap and H&I remain active, and two Fire Camp meetings carry the message to 30-40 people each week. 63 A.A. meetings are held each week in Lake County.

**DISTRICT 14 (MENDOCINO) – ALEX P.:** We had technical issues and could not connect to the internet and Zoom during our last meeting. The visiting Area Officer presented on “The Role of the GSR and DCM” and “Concepts 1 and 2”. We are developing a budget for GSR scholarships to assemblies for groups unable to provide full support. Our coastal subdistrict DCM is stepping down, and we are searching for a replacement.

**DISTRICT 15 (HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE) – JANINE L.:** We met on Zoom this month due to our meeting room’s unavailability. The recording secretary position remains open. The Delegate will attend Unity Day on July 19, and we are searching for an affordable venue. GSR recruitment efforts include pamphlet distribution and Intergroup announcements. We approved officer travel expenses to PRAASA. We welcomed two new GSRs and one Alternate. Our next focus is developing district guidelines.

**DISTRICT 16 (SPANISH CENTRAL) – ROSALBA P.:** District members attended District 20’s safety workshop, with some concerns. We tabled the decision to host the Hispanic Forum until the second year of the panel. We hold La Viña workshops on the last Friday of each month. We still have some vacant service positions. We thank our visiting Area Officer for their presentation.

**DISTRICT 17 (SPANISH SOUTH)—ERIC R.:** We discussed the importance of Agenda Topics and in-person presentations. We also heard and addressed complaints about this panel. District groups are working on establishing their presentations.

**DISTRICT 18 (SPANISH NORTH) – ALMA L.:** We held our first Service Manual study session covering Chapter 1, Concept 1, and Tradition 1. Our members attended the District 20 Safety Workshop and District 12 Agenda Topics Workshop. The visiting Area Officer presented on the “Agenda Topic Process and the Pre-Conference Assembly”. We filled three vacant service positions: Archives, Special Events, and District 10 Liaison. The District 12 and 18 BTG committees plan to collaborate.

**DISTRICT 19 (SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH)—ADAN M.:** We are building our PI and Special Events committees, with meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. We are also forming a planning committee to organize the Sixth Hispanic Forum. There is strong enthusiasm for sharing information.

**DISTRICT 20 (SPANISH EAST) – MISAIEL M.:** Our visiting Area Officer presented on “Agenda Topics and Participating in Assemblies”. We hosted a Safety Workshop on February 10. We are planning a *La Viña* workshop and more on safety. We are visiting groups to spread information and encourage Seventh Tradition contributions. Two service positions remain open: H&I Liaison and Hispanic Women’s Workshop Liaison. Many GSRs and officers participate in area subcommittees, sharing sessions and the ACM.

## **AREA STANDING & SUB-COMMITTEES, SHARING SESSIONS, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**ACCESSIBILITIES—ENRIQUE E.:** Does your district provide access literature for GSRs to share with their groups? GSO offers large-print materials and books in English and Spanish. This morning, our Alternate Committee Chair shared resources for Districts to establish access committees. The All Areas Access meeting meets online on the second Monday of each month. Next month, we'll present a safety workshop using GSO materials.

**ARCHIVES – ELVIA P.:** About half of the Districts have Archivists, but we still need a committee secretary, so minutes are rotated. The Walnut Creek repository holds 20+ boxes of Grapevines from the 1950s to today, totaling thousands. We welcome ideas on distributing them, such as at the Assembly Archives table or sending them to countries in need like India.

**BRIDGING THE GAP – LYNN K.:** Three positions remain open: Spanish Coordinator, Literature Coordinator, and H&I Liaison. Four districts reported numbers. BTG Chairs are settling in, but many still need orientation. The committee is still developing but progressing well.

**COMMENTS/COMMENTARIOS - BLAKE L.:** District 12 produced the *Comments/Comentarios* newsletter for the first time this month. Despite the learning curve, the excellent pass-it-on and generous support from the past editor and our DCMC made it a great experience.

**FINANCE – JEFF D.:** The Treasurer reported that finances are on track with the budget and is now using Zelle to facilitate and verify check deposits. It's time for our annual guideline review to determine if revisions are needed. As employers, we must file 1099s and are considering a low-cost professional tax preparer for compliance and consistency. The treasurer processes 120–150 checks per month. After a presentation on check scanning software and hardware, we voted to lease the hardware from our bank at minimal cost.

**INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – LUIS R.:** This month, the committee translated documents from the previous Area Committee meeting and provided interpretation equipment for ACYPAA in Santa Cruz, with successful testing and minor adjustments needed. The committee is committed to supporting upcoming Area events with dedication and gratitude for the opportunity to serve AA.

**PI/CPC – CLAUDIA N.:** District 10 presented “Shining the Light on a Dark Committee” sharing insights on building relationships, outreach, and tools like mass mailing CPC cards. A key takeaway was, “You don’t need a scholarship to get into A.A.” We discussed committee budgeting and accessing workbooks on AA.org. Members shared experiences carrying the PI message, including one on a Harley into a school gym and another recalling a talk on the impact of drunk driving.

**TECHNOLOGY—MEG B.:** This month, we reviewed our purpose and guidelines, and discussed strengths, meeting style preferences, potential workshops, and the area motion regarding online ACMs. We'll have a Tech Table at Assemblies with valuable resources and workshop ideas—input is welcome. We also reviewed hybrid logistics for the Pre-Conference, ensuring our budget covers travel and lodging for required on-site members. To volunteer as an alternate remote Zoom host for Assemblies and ACMs, contact [hybridteam@cnca06.org](mailto:hybridteam@cnca06.org).

**WEBSITE – SANDRA S.:** With our Chair stepping down due to health reasons, we held an election and trusted servants are now in place to maintain [CNCA06.org](http://CNCA06.org). We are preparing to post the Final Agenda Topics and Background for the 2025 General Service Conference. Ongoing website fixes include the CNCA06 mobile format and posting recent *Comments/Comentarios*. Our email is [webchair@cnca06.org](mailto:webchair@cnca06.org).

**DCM SHARING SESSION – NICOLE C:** Today's presentation and discussion covered Agenda Topics—what they are, why they matter, how to facilitate a group conscience, and how to prepare for the assembly. The key question was when the topics and background summaries would be available.

**SPANISH LINGUISTIC SHARING SESSION – HERBERTO B.:** The discussion covered presenting Agenda Topics, gathering group consciences, and preparing for the Pre-Conference. GSRs should set a day to present topics, choose them carefully, and seek support from experienced members. The note-taker should be neutral and document all viewpoints. Asking why members agree or disagree ensures all voices are heard.

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA SHARING SESSION – JOSE L.:** The sharing session focused on improving engagement with literature and Grapevine/La Viña using online tools. Discussions covered making online tools more engaging and accessible, addressing language barriers, as Spanish-speaking members are often reluctant to use online tools but find them helpful once guided, and proposing workshops or informational meetings dedicated to using them effectively.

**H & I – JAMES C.:** In Q4 2024, we remained financially stable, with literature purchases returning to pre-pandemic levels and monthly costs at \$60,000. The Inside Visiting Sponsorship Services (IVSS) program has strong prison engagement, and we urgently need sponsors, especially Spanish-speaking ones. A pilot program is expanding IVSS to San Francisco treatment centers. Our priorities are inclusion and engagement with Spanish-speaking A.A. members.

**YPAA (YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.) – EVAN J.:** ACYPAA in Santa Cruz was a big success, with 1,700 registrations. About 1,200 attended Friday night's main meeting and 1,400 on Saturday. A Spanish interpretation user brought friends after discovering the service, and ASL interpreters helped create an electrifying experience for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Some pre-registered for next year's ACYPAA in Los Angeles.

**CENTRAL OFFICES – DON Z.:** The ICOAA meets online weekly. This month, we discussed order fulfillment and pricing with Grapevine Publisher Chris C. Topics included bylaws, job descriptions, special focus groups, meeting listings, photography at A.A. events, and selling literature at Assemblies. Central Offices account for 70% of AAWS sales. The ICOAA 40th Annual Seminar will be in Memphis, TN, Sept. 19–21.

**NCCAA (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF A.A.) – CHASE C.:** The NCCAA is on March 7–9 and will feature a strong lineup of speakers, panels, and a \*Plain Language Big Book\* presentation, including an audio segment by David R. of AAWS Publishing and a history discussion by two members. A writing workshop will also take place, selecting two passages for discussion.

**HISPANIC WOMEN’S WORKSHOP – SHEILA:** The workshop began on December 6, 2024 in San Jose, California. We started with a \$1,898 fund and raised \$10,755. We spent \$6,346, and reserved \$2,500 for the next workshop. The remaining funds were divided equally among GSO, the host area, and the Hispanic Women’s Workshop. Despite positive feedback, an issue arose when an Area 93 representative inappropriately questioned the treasurer’s sexuality.

**LA VIÑA ANNIVERSARY – JUAN CARLOS:** The 29th La Viña Anniversary will occur on July 25-27, 2025, in Area 05, Los Angeles, California. Registration is \$30, with \$18 for registration and \$12 to support the event. As the Area 06 liaison, I invite Hispanic Districts 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 to participate. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**FORO HISPANO – ALEX:** Final Treasury Report: The total funds collected were \$8,556.00, with expenses of \$6,634.38. We allocated the remaining \$2,421.62 as follows: \$800 for the Sixth Hispanic Forum, leaving \$1,621.62 distributed as 60% to the District (\$972.97), 30% to the Area (\$486.48), and 10% to GSO (\$162.17). We will hold a planning assembly on March 16 to select the next host district for the Sixth Hispanic Forum.

## **AREA BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Summer 2025 Assembly Bid – *Presented by District 40 Santa Clara South*  
Presentation: Pam S. and Crispin P. presented a bid to host the Summer Assembly at the Scottish Rite in San Jose on August 2, 2025. The proposed venue has a 300-person capacity, a breakout room, interpretation space, and wheelchair accessibility. Parking includes 150 on-site and 100 overflow spots, and the venue is located right off the freeway. The total proposed budget is \$7,362.50. Questions: **Q:** Is \$150 for coffee sufficient? **A:** We could consider a motion to increase it, but the \$150 amount was recently updated in the guidelines. // **Q:** Will we have early entry on Friday? **A:** Yes. The rental coordinator, Angela, who has worked with us before and appreciates us, is flexible about allowing us to come in the day before and leave items overnight. // **Q:** What is the parking situation? **A:** There is a dedicated parking lot right outside. During our walkthrough, we noted that part of the lot is being used as an Amazon distribution center, but they assured us there are 150 available spaces, along with ample free street parking. Historically, 150

spaces have been sufficient, with overflow on the street. We will reserve the closest spaces for those with limited mobility. // **There were no objections. <<Assembly Bid Approved.>>**

### **HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS**

- That CNCA 06 purchases two 12" Passive PA Speakers at a cost not to exceed \$670. - *Presented by the Technology Committee.*

*Presentation:* Hybrid Event Coordinator Don L. explained that, according to the Motions Book, the Area purchased the assembly speaker system in 2001. The speakers are 25 years old. Those who attended last year's Summer Assembly experienced poor sound quality. The two largest speakers, weighing 60 lbs each, have been failing and need replacement. While the two smaller speakers may also need replacing in the future, the priority is to start with the larger ones. *Questions:* **Q:** Does the \$670 include a warranty? **A:** It includes free shipping and a two-year parts and labor warranty. // **There were no objections. <<Housekeeping Motion Passed.>>**

- That the paper goods budget for the 2025 Pre-Conference Assembly be increased to \$455, due to a Santa Cruz ordinance requiring the use of compostable tableware. – *Presented by Matt E., CNCA06 Assembly Coordinator, and Andrea W., Pre-Conference Assembly Chair*

*Presentation:* The assembly venue is a county building, and Santa Cruz County requires us to supply compostable tableware. Plastic water bottles are not allowed and we must also purchase compostable disposable plates, forks, and other utensils, which are significantly more expensive. To help offset costs, the civic center will sell us forks and knives at a significant discount, and ACYPAA is donating coffee cups, allowing us to save where we can. *Questions:* **Q:** What is the actual increase? **A:** The standing budget for paper goods is \$200, so we are adding \$255. // **Q:** What about the table coverings, are they part of the paper goods budget? **A:** Table covers are part of decorations. The budget breakdown includes lunch plates, breakfast plates, forks, spoons, napkins, and foil tins. // **Q:** Do we have leftover paper plates from last year that we can use? **A:** We have a lot of supplies in my garage and will pass along anything we can't use, like Styrofoam, to the next Assembly. However, due to the ordinance, we will start from scratch with disposable goods. // **There were no objections. <<Housekeeping Motion Passed.>>**

- That CNCA provides interpretation for the upcoming Registrar Workshop on March 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm at a cost not to exceed \$75.00. - *Presented by CNCA Registrar Sarah B.*

*Presentation:* This workshop is designed for District Registrars. It covers the requirements for registering groups, includes a demonstration on navigating and using Airtable, and provides an opportunity for questions. The cost includes one hour of interpretation, following the precedent set by previous registrar workshops. *Questions:* **Q:** Is this for Spanish interpretation, not ASL? **A:** Correct, this is for Spanish interpretation only. // **There were no objections. <<Housekeeping Motion Passed.>>**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- That the ACM, Area Standing Committees, and Area Subcommittees that meet in

the same month as CNCA's assemblies are conducted online only during those months. - *Presented by the Panel 73 CNCA Finance Committee*

**Discussion: District or Group consciences:** District 06 had a lively discussion, as many had never attended an ACM. Still, there was substantial unanimity that passing this motion was a better use of funds. // **Q:** If this passes today, would we have an online-only ACM in April? **A:** Correct. // The Tech Committee found that two committees meet only in person, and if this passes, three meetings would need to run simultaneously, requiring an additional \$200 Zoom license. Eliminating in-person travel reimbursements would save \$1,000–\$1,500 per year. There are enough volunteers to manage online meetings. // GSRs want more time to bring this to their groups. // GSRs were split—half support online meetings, while the other half believe in-person is necessary. // In-person meetings provide a stronger sense of connection, and some members need face-to-face interaction. Saving money should not be A.A.'s priority. // My group believes we should try online meetings because the future is here, and we should welcome it. // My group had a divided conscience. We think removing essential aspects of A.A. is wrong, and we learn too much from the GSR sharing session. // This would be better run as a pilot. // Our district GSRs are divided; some believe in-person meetings are essential for Spanish-speaking members. // My group does not support this. As a first-year GSR, I find attending in-person meetings with English speakers very useful. // The linguistic sharing session encouraged members to express their opinions. // **Personal opinions:** I initially supported the motion but reconsidered after hearing that it's a big jump from never doing it to always doing it. Bill's essay suggests we should test changes first. I also found it interesting that a Spanish-speaking district requires GSRs to attend this meeting, whereas others leave attendance optional. // My district doesn't have a group conscience yet, but conversations suggest this would be better run as a pilot rather than a permanent change. // As a Latina, I feel more comfortable passing the message in person rather than over a screen. Adapting to a new format can be difficult for us, and I believe in-person is better. // While presence is important, Latina GSRs shared that attending the Assembly and ACM in close succession can be too much, especially with family obligations. Some prefer virtual meetings for this reason. // In my district, most GSRs supported moving online, but some emphasized the importance of maintaining the Spanish-speaking session. I believe we fear change, but we should be open to trying online meetings. // My group did not support moving to Zoom. I also prefer in-person meetings. As a first-year GSR in a group with many young members, I feel in-person fosters unity better. // Virtual meetings could help those who cannot attend in person. // We often focus on the negatives rather than the positives. Moving some meetings online could help our finances, and we should embrace digital tools rather than fear them. Testing this approach through trial and error is a reasonable step. // This decision does not affect me directly, so I believe it should be made by those impacted. // **Q:** What is the source of the savings? **A:** Petaluma Community Center rental and travel reimbursement. // I believe there's no harm in trying this change to see what happens. // I started in General Service during the pandemic, initially online. My service sponsor encouraged me to attend in person when the ACM became hybrid. Attending in-person created a strong sense of community for me. Reducing in-person meetings by four out of twelve means losing a quarter of our time together, which could weaken that sense of unity. Hybrid meetings already ensure accessibility, so we should maintain in-person meetings. // Transitioning to four online meetings per year could

confuse new members still learning the service structure. It may lead to losing people who would otherwise stay engaged. // <<**Motion to continue as Old Business at the Area Committee Meeting on March 22, 2025.>>**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- That CNCA allows Intergroups and Central Offices to sell Conference- approved literature by A.A.W.S., as well as A.A. Grapevine/La Viña magazines and books, at Area Assemblies, with the following provisions: 1) Literature must be available in both English and Spanish; 2) The sale of sobriety medallions, t-shirts and other types of merchandise will be prohibited; and 3) the Intergroup / Central will have sole financial responsibility for literature sales. – *Presented by Matt E. Assembly Coordinator and Jackie B. Area Recording Secretary.*

### **Discussion:**

**Group consciences:** District 03 discussed the motion and some GSRs expressed confusion about why this isn't already in place. Intergroup members were present and answered clarifying questions. Overall, the district was in favor. **Personal opinions:** 70% of AA literature sales come from Intergroup offices. I support having literature available, especially since it includes both English and Spanish and is limited to conference-approved materials. // Having literature present encourages members to acquire it, allowing them to purchase books at cost without shipping. // I'm in favor because I could buy a workbook that our Central Office does not typically stock. // Grapevine subscriptions and books could also be promoted. Smaller Central Offices may not carry all service materials, which could be made available at assemblies. // This would support both our local fellowship and Intergroup. If a book is discussed at the assembly, I'd be inclined to visit the literature table and purchase it. // I assume the Intergroup Central Office would determine what they sell and they wouldn't be responsible for providing free materials? // The intent is to give Central Offices explicit permission to sell conference-approved literature. Still, they could also provide free materials like schedules and safety cards. // Many of us meet new people at assemblies who have questions—having literature and pamphlets available would be helpful. // This shouldn't be an "us vs. them" issue; we should consider new members who can benefit from seeing available literature. // As long as they don't sell shirts, I see this as a good way to cooperate. // Literature is essential for carrying the message—newcomers often want to understand what we do, and literature is a vital tool. We should not sell medallions or shirts to avoid creating a business out of our Assemblies. // Speaking at an assembly led me to pick up *AA Comes of Age*, and exposure to general service can spark interest—having literature present makes that easier. // Devil's advocate: people are used to grabbing pamphlets for free from a literature rack—could this create an issue? // **Impact of the motion:** If this motion passes, Intergroups/Central Office will be allowed to sell conference-approved literature and AA Grapevine/La Viña literature in English and Spanish. The financial impact on the Area is negligible. If the motion does not pass, sales of conference-approved literature and Grapevine/La Viña literature will remain prohibited. <<**Motion to become Old Business at the Area Committee Meeting on March 22, 2025.>>**

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

- Creating Area Guidelines

*Discussion:* Q: What guidelines are we talking about? Do we share a common definition—for example, GSO has guidelines on AI-Anon—and what are the risks of having them versus not having them? // I'm new to the area and wanted to get into General Service, but couldn't find an explanation on the website; I appreciate clear guidelines, bylaws, and structure because they help me understand what to do. // I'm bothered by references to "small t" traditions; I am bound by the Traditions of A.A. What I need clarity on is practices and customs. // When I served as chair and now as delegate, the lack of clear direction made me anxious as I had to ask for help. However, I value the spiritual experience of seeking assistance and learning to be comfortable with uncertainty. // A little guidance would be helpful. // In my group, we had position descriptions—not labeled as guidelines—which were useful for rotation; we used an oral pass-it-on procedure for outgoing officers to show incoming ones how they did things, but non-officers don't have a guide. // <<**Discussion to continue at the Area Committee Meeting on March 22, 2025.>>**

### **WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**

Guidelines are helpful for areas experiencing chaos, but we are a healthy area. // With a full year of assemblies planned, as Assembly Coordinator, I can now start planting seeds for districts to host in 2026. // As a former fall assembly co-chair, I'm glad we've switched to compostable materials and hope we continue. // We have a timer at every ACM who holds up a red card. I need volunteers to serve as timers each month for this panel—please let me know if you're interested. // District 16 Spanish Central will host the Hispanic Interdistrict meeting on Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Grupo Misión, 2010 Mission St., San Francisco. // Bill W. explained that the Traditions are neither rules, regulations, nor laws; we follow them willingly.

*Drew B. closed the meeting at 3:25 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B.  
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 75