

Mid-Southern California Area 9 Area Assembly Minutes January 9, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Jeryl at 12:12pm

Readings: Declaration of Unity: David/Gildardo Tradition 1:Martin/Pedro Concept 1: Jeff/Jesus GSR
Preamble: Robert/Cruz Statement of Purpose and Membership: John/Aldo

Introductions

Approval of September 2010 Assembly minutes_ Motion/2nd – Scott/Charlie Motion carries unanimously.

Announcements:

- Terry S. 4 Area DCM Sharing session February 19
- Ernesto – talked about the Workbook and there are a limited amount of hard copies.

Officers Reports:

Delegate Linda C. – As she reported at the Service Committee Meeting, the proposal to make the Conference Archives Secondary Committee a full Standing Committee was reviewed and discussed by the Trustees Archives Committee and they decided to take *no action*. Therefore, it will not be on the Conference agenda for the 2011 conference. If we want to pursue this further (or again) we can do so any time.

Since the Area service committee meeting, she spoke at the Sun City speakers meeting on December 19th and the District 9 monthly meeting on the same day in Palm Desert. She spoke at the Seekers' meeting in Huntington Beach on December 27th and the Area Archives workbook workshop yesterday at the repository in Riverside.

She thanked everyone responsible for the transition from the old website to the newly redesigned site. She especially thanked the outgoing webmaster, Becky B., the area's first webmaster, Nancy R., the interim EMSC chair, Nick M., the ACC chair, Jesse O., the newly selected EMSC Chair, Jim C., and the new webmaster, Rainer F. She pointed out how fortunate we are to have so many dedicated people working for our area.

She contacted each of the Districts, Intergroups, H&I committees and AOCYPAA and TRICYPAA with a visitation schedule for this year. The visitations scheduled for after the General Service Conference will be Conference Reports. The other visits are just for the purpose of keeping in touch with our Coordinate Committees. She asked any DCMC or coordinate committee chairs who have not gotten a letter from her to please let her know so she can schedule her visitations.

She continues to pick up the donations each week and mail them to Joseph on a weekly basis.

She's working on a checklist for the day-to-day responsibilities for the delegate of our area. She's using her own experience, plus some good material from past delegates who have shared their ideas and protocols. She hopes this checklist may be of use to those who will serve as delegates from our area in the future.

She has purchased her plane ticket for the Board Weekend in New York in January, which will be paid for by GSO, as will her other expenses. She plans to arrive in New York on Thursday, January 27th and return to Orange County on Monday, January 31st. She will have a full report soon after she gets home and will try to get it into the newsletter for February... but will publish it on the website in any case.

She said she again handed out packets at the Delegate's Sharing session this morning, which included the list of "Sound Bites", designed to be helpful in making short reports to groups and/or Districts. She would like feedback about whether this is helpful.

She said that perhaps some of the people attending might be "trying out general service" and, if they find they don't like it, they'll move on to some other A.A. service. She said that that's fine, of course, but was reminded of something that made an impression on her when she first read it. It was the theme of the first General Service Conference and it said, "*Genuine Faith—It begins as an experiment and ends as an experience.*" She said that perfectly describes her journey in Alcoholics Anonymous, which began as an experiment and has developed into a series of experiences; as has her journey in general service. During the "experiment" phase, she was uncomfortable, often *very* uncomfortable, but had she not stuck it out and heeded the invitation to "keep coming back" she said she would have missed the most amazing experiences she could possibly have imagined. The importance of each group having an ear and a voice in A.A. as a whole cannot be over stated...she pointed out that the first Tradition insists on our *Unity*, which means all of us together, informed and active. She asked everyone not to judge their usefulness on the level of their discomfort... She said that A.A. needs them to be heard and their groups need them in order to stay informed.

She finished with this: "And, finally, I told a friend recently how much I am enjoying "serving alcoholics" and he said, "*Sounds to me like you're working in a low-life bar!*" So, perhaps I should say that I am very grateful for the opportunity to be in service with all of you alcoholics."

Alt. Delegate: Cesar – He thanked everyone for letting him be a part of this wonderful area. He has been participating in the 4 Area DCM sharing session planning committee meeting. He is working closely with District 6 in regards to the pre-conference workshops. La Vina came out with the first edition with perfect bonding no staples. La Vina will also celebrate 15 years in an event to be held in the middle of 2011. He celebrated 15 years at his home group Libertad

Treasurer: Joseph – Started today with \$4,338.17, checks not entered \$1884.12 for a total of \$622.29. Prudent reserve \$333.54. Currently we are 8% behind 2008 and 2% ahead of last year for contributions. Budget is tight this year so this may be a good time for the committees to cooperate with each other in regards to events and such. Currently 781 entities contribute, 648 registered groups, 129 unregistered, and four districts. New expense form has been created. Calculations for food kitty (\$385.82) and coffee (\$33.35). Passed basket around again for food/coffee kitty collected \$287.08.

Secretary: Sharon – She eBlasted the new website information. She eBlasted the Area Roster to the Orange County Central Office to get contacts for their DCMC directory. She eBlasted the Area Assembly meeting location. She gathered participants who are willing to be service sponsors and gave list to GSR School chairs, she will have an updated list at every meeting. She attended the board meeting on December 12. She eBlasted the final report from the Pacific Regional Forum. She eBlasted the Pacific Regional Trustee's report. eBlasted the District 11 hosted Alcañon on New Year's at the Arid Club in San Bernardino. 176 people in attendance today.

Registrar: Michael not present

Chair: Jeryl T. – 4% of our groups are represented in this area. Asked how many GSR's got a group conscience prior to coming to Assembly to vote. District 11 turned 50 years. Board meetings are open for a brief Q & A prior to the board meeting. Will be attending PRAASA. The board is available to visit your groups with you. We are getting together information so that we will have an informed group conscience prior to the pre-conference workshop. Regional Forum will be in Woodland Hills this year – information to follow. Asked for members available for service sponsorship.

Confirmation of Rainer as webmaster

Old Business

- Area 09 would like to suggest to our Delegate to propose to the General Service Conference Literature Committee that the piece of literature, now in development, which is "spiritual in nature" include sharing from our Fellowship that expresses the mutual respect we have for differences in spiritual perspectives and acceptance of each individual's personal spirituality. We would like to have included sponsorship experiences between the atheist sponsor and the non-atheist sponsee, and visa versa. Motion to reconsider vote passes. 2nd vote passes with 74 – 17.
 - Jake – discussed with group and they strongly support this and shaping this piece of literature.
 - Nick – group discussed and is opposed to this. Their group thought "We Agnostics" was good enough.
 - Robert – group discussed and does not wish to pursue any further. Some of group input included atheist and agnostic members.
 - Ramon – consensus was to include this experience negative and positive.
 - Santiago – discussed this in my District. One of the conclusions that going back to the 1st tradition we can not tell another alcoholic what he or she should do. 8th tradition and we should not be professional. Dr. Bob also mentioned we should keep this simple. We should not impose rules to others.
- Minority opinion
 - Charlie – think we are being like an oxymoron. Firm believer in Big Book and finding a God of understanding.
 - Jackie – in opposition of this. Big Book of AA Step three. History of Bob and Bill and the reason why you need to find a God of your understanding.
 - Erin – why should we add a specific Atheist to non-atheist? Why not Catholic to Jewish.

New Business

- Proposal to have Alternate Delegate be liaison to the interpreters. Motion to reconsider failed. Motion passes.
 - Jake – group was against this proposal. There is no reason to add more responsibility to the Alternate Delegate's position. There are other committee's that could be responsible for this.
 - Marcelo – have seen this proposal as being unnecessary. I recall when this committee of translation started, it started off as an ad hoc committee. The chair of that subcommittee would contract the interpreters. The only difference was that there was nothing written for the chair of that sub-committee. I know that last month when our delegate explained the difference.
 - Jesus – in favor of this proposal because someone has to do the job. It would be better served if someone from the board was in charge of doing this. Sometimes there is turnover in the translation committee.
 - Nancy – committees start as one committee and evolves into another and the responsibilities become different.
 - Nick – who changes the guidelines.
 - Jeryl – we are going to make sure as a board the changes are done.

Minority Opinion

- Jake – should alternate delegate step in for delegate then there would be no one available.
- Moses – Alternate Delegate has hands full with current duties.
- Proposal to make the proposed changes to the Area Guidelines in order to make them compatible with the MSCA Bylaws as indicated in bold print and underlined. (see attached) Passed unanimously.
 - Charlie – point of information. Says see attached on the agenda.
 - Joe - If we have two documents to reflect each other and these are going to be updated? Why do we have two documents?
 - Jim – Committee thought we don't need two documents but before we do that, we didn't think it would be appropriate to get rid of guidelines before we bring them together.

- Gerrilynne – some experience with this. One is that we discussed for TRICYPAA is we have both.
- Proposed budget – Budget passes.
 - Joe B. spoke to minority opinion. Want to make sure that every committee chair is aware of their budget.
 - Jake – group overwhelmingly to approve the budget. One member questioned the Archives cost and could we have a viable reduction of cost for this. This is 25% of the budget.
 - Amendment to take some of the money from the Delegate (\$2000) and Secretary (\$500) and Communications Committee (\$1000) proposed budgets to transfer to the communications publishing budget to support a high speed printer. Jim/Nancy
 - Lease a high speed printer not to exceed \$350 month and to migrate some of our copy costs into the publications budget. Motion Nick/Martin. Tony M. spoke to minority opinion. Motion passes.
 - Nick – 60 month lease for multi function high speed printer. Toner, maintenance contract and we are proposing to include the paper as well. 3000 copies a month. It does 35 pages a minute. The Communications committee would work with the Archives committee to staff.
 - Jim – expect to save \$3500 by purchasing the printer
 - Alex – have a problem with it being brought up now.
 - Joseph – MSCA 09 look at a lease as a monthly payment.
 - Joe B. – in favor as Newsletter Chair. December the newsletter was \$580 dollars. Strictly from my budget would pay for the lease of this machine.
 - Phil – how does the charge with black/white and color.
 - Nick - The charge to add color is .08 cents.
 - Martin – in favor of this. We are trying to be of service to our Area and there is no tricky business. We need to trust our trusted servants in the committee.
 - Jake – this sounds like a good idea but I would vote against it because I'm not able to talk to my group.
 - Jeryl – explained right of decision.
 - Joseph – Archives Committee is in favor of this.
 - Robert – a better service for our AA functions
- Request for letter of recommendation for TRICYPAA to host ACYPAA 2012. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Phil – I think any way we can support and bring them to Area 9 this would be great
 - Suzanne – TRICYPAA has been active and District 11 will be sending a letter also.
 - Robby - % of income goes to Area 9 if TRICYPAA is selected.
 - Martin – Where is the venue? Gerrilynne/Robby – we would have to propose three different sites and some on the list would be the Doubletree and the Convention Center and Riverside Convention Center.
 - Kristy – This is important, we end up with more people in Young People AA as a result
 - Erin – District 12 is in support
 - Joe B. – I'm in favor of support and have a request to do a skit in their proposal.

District Reports (written reports spoken from the microphone)

District 1 – 35 people attended a holiday pot luck meeting. We had an abundance of food and fellowship. We separated the tables from a huge round table to separate tables. As I walked around the room the tables were communicating about the fellowship ☺ ☺ We are strong in PI and CPC with a presentation for the Rotary Club at the Marriott. A lot of rehearsing! We are in need of a new Secretary and Registrar committed service members. I went to a huge meeting last night at Torrance Memorial Hospital with 200 plus people. Yes AA is doing good in the South Bay. We are going to elect a committed Registrar and Secretary for 2011 and am excited to hear CPC & PI reports about the Rotary Club. Thinking positive for our future. Bring attention: La Vina and Grapevine to the GSR to take a contribution in a can and give to the one year AA member on his anniversary of his birthday.

District 2 – Thank you all for supporting our efforts to serve you. It is always a privilege and honor. We are committed to promote GSR work in District 2 through constant announcements and visitations.

District 4 – 25 – 30 GSRs showing up for the district meeting. There seems to be some difficulty getting more GSR's involved from the 350 meetings in the District. We did have four new GSR's at the January meeting. We are sending the Alt. DCMC to PRAASA to represent our District.

District 5 – 16 people present. 2011 budget approved. Reviewing District 5 guidelines "goals" to see how District performed to the goals and continue to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Continue to educate GSRs.

District 6 – 45 present for meeting. Practiced some revisions to GSR reports. 96 years of sobriety celebrated. Will be hosting pre-conference workshop April 10. Proposed location – Laguna Woods Gate 12 clubhouse. February potluck.

District 7 – 15 present. Had a Christmas gratitude potluck. Voted in new Treasurer Vanessa.

District 8 – written

District 9 – We meet the third Sunday of the month and started by reading the concepts in 2010. We will now start by reading the traditions. More loving discussion took place about mileage reimbursement. We also discussed a committee for carpooling. Thank you Linda for visiting our District meeting. Our District will host the Feb. 13th ASC at the ABC Club in Indio. We have 10 District members here at the Assembly. Our District voted to reimburse up to \$2600 for members attending PRAASA. Our District has only two meetings left until we get to go to PRAASA. As always thank you for letting me be of service.

District 10 – 29 people in attendance. Started our District Inventory with Past Delegate Joe B. facilitating. Spent 35 minutes on the first question. We will take as long as we need to take. Began concerted effort to increase participation at Area meetings. This will continue. Approved our 2011 meeting schedule. Three District members will be attending PRAASA 2011. Groups have earmarked approximately \$400 in contributions specifically for PRAASA participation. We will vote in February to augment this with an agreed upon amount from the General Fund. Upcoming events: Potluck and continuing inventory in February. August 3rd is Delegate's report back.

District 11 – 8 members present. Alcathon was a success. Sending DCMC to PRAASA. 12 GSRs in regular attendance. District 11 is celebrating 50 years of General Service in MSCA 09. District 11 was created from District 8 in January 1961 Area Assembly. I will be attending all events in January and February.

District 12 –

District 14 – 11 present. Report from ice cream social last November & Traditions Play. We will repeat in November 2011. Voted and accepted. PRAASA we would like to take four members and trying to find all of them so far one accepted, three are on hold. Four members from District here today. Upcoming events – hosting August ASC, we look forward to the pre-conference workshop and are getting the message that the GSR is very important.

District 15 – 11 in attendance including one new GSR. 5 in attendance at January assembly. We continue to outreach to dark meetings in our area. We now have two of our four DCM positions filled. Shared 61st GSC presentation topics with members to begin discussing with their groups.

District 17 – 14 present. District Guidelines updates ongoing. 2011 Budget approved. Co-hosting FORO July 2011.

District 18 – funding attendance at PRAASA. We are preparing to host the ASC in March. We need to fill the positions of Alt. DCMC and one DCM. We will be updating meeting information for GSO.

District 20 – written

District 21 – written

District 22 – written

District 23 – written

District 24 – written

District 25 – written

District 30 – District 30 has decided to take advantage of Area 9 and invite different speakers from our area to talk about service. We will have a short business meeting followed by snacks and then a speaker. Our first meeting will be questions and answers focused on service structure. Next event Pete will give a talk on AA History focused on Area 9.

Standing Committee Reports (written only not spoken from microphone)

Archives – 1) Still reviewing GSO Archives Workbook with committee members along with Linda C., MSCA 09 Delegate. 2) reviewing and revising current collection policy; 3) 2011 Movie Night is on the area website; A historical event occurred at a Jan 1961 Area Assembly in which District 11 was created from District 8, so District 11 is celebrating 50 years of General Service of MSCA Area 9. Upcoming events: 1) Archives committee is scheduled for January 15, 2011 at 2pm. 2) Jan. 15th movie night showing “My Name is Bill W”. 3) January 22 sorting party at the Archives 4) MSCA Area 09 sharing session at the Archives Repository 5) District 6 members coming for a sorting party in Feb. 2011 6) Registration Workshop on Feb. 27.

Corrections –

Communications –

Convention Liaison –

DCM School – 30 attendees.

Covered the 4 Area DCM sharing session.

- Why it is a must for all DCM & Alternate DCM.
- Please bring your interested GSR's (they are our future DCM's)
- We previewed the topic list for the event – VERY EXCITING, INTERESTING

Covered one of the main responsibilities of the DCM's visitations to groups

- Get new GSR's
- Re-reviewed what literature is useful to bring to new GSR's when visiting meeting
- DCM's requested a list of literature suggested for visitation packets. Also for possible publication to area newsletter

Delegate Linda C. came by to offer her services

Tina B. from the Registration Committee spoke to us about all importance of cooperation between DCM and Registration

Finance – Treasurer's Reports Ongoing: compilation of Area Property Inventory. Appointment of subcommittee to research financial policies. Acquiring current copies of all Area Committee guidelines. Recommendation of amendment to 2011 budget to reflect reduced printing costs by addition of proposed copier. Budget overrides for Treasurer and Secretary. Next FC meeting February ASC.

Grapevine Rep – Revisited idea of having English speaking writer Grapevine workshop for Area 09. Talked about making the flyer “Why Should I be a Grapevine Rep” and registration forms available at assemblies and local AA groups. Jody J. made the discovery that on each December issue of the Grapevine there is an index on the back pages of all the Grapevine articles and subjects for the past year.

GSR School – 11 attended. Asked if all GSR's are registered with GSO. Talked about Area 09 new website and the available downloads – what's it all about and the workbook. Gave GSR's list of available service sponsors (thank you Sharon). Read from the pamphlet “The AA Group”, discussed service structure. If you are a GSR and haven't registered with General Services office please see me after the meeting.

Registration – Upcoming workshop on February 27 @ 10am to 2pm at the Archives repository. We would like to invite all DCM's, DCMC's, District Officers, Area Officers and all interested persons. There will be a flyer forwarded to Sharon and Jesus promptly. We look forward to seeing you there. We will be discussing issues pertaining to registering groups and keeping accurate/updated info.

Special Needs – We talked about the correspondence I received concerning the first ASL (American Sign Language) conference (refer to article in newsletter) We talked about Districts putting together budgets for Special Needs and how to use those stated funds. We also talked about going to other places carrying the message and trying to get the deaf community involved in General Service again.

Coordinate committees

AOCYPAA – Hosted annual New Year's Eve meeting and dance on New Year's Eve at Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove where we were able to carry the message with nearly 1,000 young alcoholics from all over Southern California. Upcoming events: H & I pre conference event on January 22nd in Laguna Hills at St. Georges Episcopal Church with a meeting and an H & I themed dance at 7:30pm.

TRICYPAA – Thanks to the Area for their support. We are bidding for ACYPAA 2012 round up. Thank you Linda, Jeryl, and Sharon for your patience and support of our committee. We are outreaching to young Alcoholics in Districts 4, 8, 11, 17, and 30. We are co-hosting an H & I fundraiser and meeting Dance with AOCYPAA. Proceeds go to H & I convention. Upcoming events. Valentines Day Ball Saturday Feb. 12th @ Valley Alano Club. AA meeting at 8pm and dance 10pm – 2am. Dinner and movie will take place. \$12 suggested donation. TRICYPAA will be doing a group inventory in mid February 2011.

Recap of Actions

- Confirmation of Rainer as webmaster

Announcements

Birthdays

Cesar 15, Sharon 10, Michael 16, Jim C. 31, Jesus 19, Angel 4, Jose 19, Moses 13, Pam 32, Virginia 28, Anna 15, Marco 10, Paco 14, Joe 31

THE ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED with the Responsibility Pledge: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, And for that, I am responsible."

Meeting adjourned at .

Minutes respectfully submitted by Panel 60 Secretary –Sharon K.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES