

***** APPROVED MINUTES *****

Mid-Southern California Area 9 ASC Minutes

November 8, 2015

The Corporate Room 34846 Monte Vista Drive Wildomar 92595, CA

Hosted by District #17

ASC Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sharon at 12:01pm.

Readings: Declaration of Unity read by Eric in English/Rodrigo in Spanish. The Statement of Purpose and Membership read by Hiro in English/Carlos in Spanish.

Introductions: Past Trustees, Past Delegates, New DCMCs/Alt. DCMCs, New DCMs/Alt. DCMs, New GSRs and Alt. GSRs, Guests, Past and Current Area Officers.

Approval of minutes for the August ASC.

Officers/Directors Reports (following reports are written reports):

Delegate Cesar: My name is Cesar and I am an alcoholic, I have the honor and privilege to serve as your Panel 64 Area 09 Delegate. News from GSO – AAWS: The co-location construction project to bring Grapevine onto the 11th floor of 475 Riverside Dr. and to renovate and update the General Service Office space is proceeding on schedule and should be completed by the end of November. New staff members Jeff W., on the corrections desk, and Sandra W., on the literature desk, have begun their assignments, and it was great to have them at the last board weekend. New GSO general manager, Greg T., has also begun his new position. AAGV - More outreach within the Fellowship is needed to slow (or perhaps even reverse) the trend of declining subscriptions, and AAGV has developed a list of specific actions requested in terms of organization-wide support. One of the most important is list sharing between AAWS and AAGC (sharing of databases of member contact info from sources such as the International Convention registration, on the one hand, and the list AAGV subscribers, on the other hand), and the General Service Board unanimously endorsed the principle behind this. Now we just need to work out logistics. Use of these databases, once shared, will be handled in as low-key a manner as possible, with the typical outreach being a brief invitation to opt in to receive information about Grapevine/La Vina. Grapevine circulation averaged 72,495 for the first nine months of 2015, which is 2,307 ahead of budget and 1,759 lower than the first nine months of 2014. Significant contributors to subscriptions being ahead of budget include 900 subscriptions purchased by International Convention attendees, the success of the Subscription challenge, and the Carry the Message effort. La Vina circulation averaged 10,310 through the first nine months. The La Vina celebration, as always, contributed significantly to the subscription numbers. The project to re-tag the story archive in order to yield better search results for users is under way, with a team of six freelancers reading and re-tagging every story since Grapevine began. They have gotten up through 1958, and Ami B., Executive Editor/Publisher, reported that the re-tagging team shares how remarkable it is to trace the early development of the Fellowship through Grapevine. The SMS project for La Vina has been launched, and the response has been very strong – members can punch in a code to subscribe and receive a weekly text message with the quote of the week and brief news about La Vina. The new Grapevine book, *Forming True Partnerships*, is out, and it is selling strongly. Pricing for the mobile-friendly version of Grapevine has been set at \$24 for a one-year subscription, and this new product should be available in the first quarter of 2016.

Archives - The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee a request to explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.

Conference - Mary Clare Lynch, staff to this committee, shared that the trip to Stepping Stones will take place this year, but due to local restrictions related to holidays, the trip will be on April 16th, the Saturday of the opening weekend of the Conference. This means that those who wish to make the trip will need to come into New York no later than Friday the 15th.

The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee on policy and admissions a request to consider the concept of admitting representatives from the service structure of other Twelfth Step Fellowships to observe the General Service Conference. This came about because of a request from another Fellowship (Adult Children of Alcoholics) to observe. No action is being taken on that specific request for the 2016 Conference, as it was felt it would be best for the Conference to discuss and develop a conscience on the overall concept separate from a specific request.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities - The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee on CPC a subcommittee suggestion that the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." be retired because of length and outdated language. This suggestion grew out of an additional committee consideration by the Conference CPC committee. The trustees' committee also noted that this pamphlet remains an important piece of A.A. history and asked the subcommittee reviewing CPC pamphlets to ensure that any still-relevant information from the pamphlet was captured in other A.A. literature. The committee recommended to the General Service Board that "Special Needs" be removed from the name of the trustees' committee and throughout the committee's Composition, Scope, and Procedure, and the board unanimously approved this recommendation. The committee also forwarded to the Conference committee on Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities a suggestion to change its name and Composition, Scope, and Procedures, removing "Special Needs." These actions sprang from an additional committee consideration from the 2015 Conference committee. The basic idea involves a philosophical shift away from singling out members with special needs in favor of focusing on barriers to access in receiving the A.A. message and ways to overcome those barriers.

Finance and Budgetary - Under GSO financial results, there is about a \$283,000 net loss for the first nine months of this year. Expenses are essentially flat from the same period last year, and total revenue (literature, contributions, and interest) is down about 18% from last year. On the Grapevine financials, there is about a \$207,000 net profit for the first nine months for Grapevine; subscriptions haven't declined as much as anticipated, and some expenditures included in the budget haven't been needed. The La Vina shortfall is about \$99,000 for the first nine months (this is about \$19,000 less than budgeted). The Reserve fund is at about 10 months of operating expenses, and it is expected to decline to about 9 months of operating expenses once the co-location project is completed. Final audited results of the International Convention aren't in yet, but it looks like there will be a loss in the range of \$220,000 (total cost to put on the convention was about \$6 million). This is due mostly to attendance being stronger than expected. The record-breaking numbers (about 57,000 attendees) meant that more people were housed farther away from the convention venues, which increased the expenses for transportation to bus people in from remote accommodations. You'll see detailed numbers regarding the financials in the board minutes when I receive the final version and send it out, most likely by the end of the month. I wouldn't call the financial situation dire at this point, but the board treasurer and all of the board members are definitely concerned about it. In the section below on the Trustees' Planning Session, you'll see information about what we're doing to respond.

International Conventions/Regional Forums - The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Al-Anon be invited to participate in A.A.'s International Convention in Detroit in 2020, and the board unanimously approved this recommendation. Al-Anon has been invited to participate in every International Convention since 2000.

Literature - Over 220 stories have been submitted for the three literature projects initiated by the 2015 Conference (revisions to "A.A. for the Woman" and "A.A. for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," and the development of literature for A.A.s with mental health issues). Included were over twenty stories from Spanish-speaking members. The members of the subcommittees working on these projects have developed scoring sheets to use in evaluating the stories, and we are looking forward to reading the stories as soon as the Spanish submissions have been translated into English. The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee a proposal for the development of a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous. The intent is not to replace the Big Book, but to develop another version that could be particularly useful in carrying the message to alcoholics in remote communities where English is a second language, as well as helping to make the A.A. message accessible to those with lower literacy levels.

Public Information - The new PSA, "Doors," is performing very well. It has been picked up by CNN Airport Network and is playing in at least nine major airports.

There was a reminder to all board members that the Fellowship does notice what we post on social media, but time did not permit the robust discussion of this issue that some of us feel would be good to have. We look forward to other opportunities to discuss this subject in the future.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve as your delegate, Service is a Legacy of Love - Cesar F. Panel 64 Delegate

Alternate Delegate Joe: First I want to say thank you to Cesar for his wonderful service. Since our Sept. Assembly, I went to the Temecula Valley Intergroup with Cesar where he spoke for about ½ hour about General Service. I went to District 9 and District 2 for Cesar's Delegate report-backs. I went to Districts 10, 5, 23, 21, and 20 to help with their elections. I attended District 23's Anniversary where I spoke for about ½ hour about how I got involved in General Service. I attended two Board meetings. I attended Area 08's elections yesterday with Jesus. Area 08 is the San Diego and Imperial Valley Area and are our neighbors to the south. It was a joy to see them elect their new Panel 66 Delegate, Jane G. who is a remarkable individual. And, finally, I attended our elections where I was elected your new Panel 66 Delegate. In love and service, Joe C.

Area Chair Sharon: As most of you know I have had to refrain from a lot of general service activities because of my foot situation. I apologize for this. I want to thank Joe for helping me with the September assembly and our last board meeting. I'm excited for the new panel and you are in good hands. Thanks for letting me be of service. Sharon K – Panel #64 Chair

Registrar Jesus: Since last week, I've been working on group updates. I had a chance to attend the district 20, 21 and 23 to help with their elections. We were invited and attended the area 08 elections in Escondido, yesterday. What a process! They actually have to elect 10 people instead of 7 like we do. We are still lucky, the elections ended at 5:30 pm. Our very own interpreter (Alicia) was elected the area 08 Registrar. Today, I met with district 20 and 25 registrars to review some of the updates we've done recently. In addition, we gave our newly elect Ryan a short intro. to the Registration/Registrar duties and responsibilities. Finally, as you can probably tell, I'm trying to walk in Joe's shoes and walk in his footsteps. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Jesus O

Treasurer Rozanne: Absent – no report.

Secretary Barbara: We did it! We pulled off the Panel #66 Area elections with virtually no issues (once we got the reschedule organized). Thanks again to my home District of District #04 for the great hospitality and organization and CONGRATULATIONS to the new MSCA #09 Panel #66 Executive Board – Joe, Jesus, Ramon, Ed, Diane, Leandro, and Ryan are going to rock our Area, I just know it. Thank you to all of you for being willing to serve our Area. I can assure you if it's anything like the last 2 years have been for me, you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll work your butts off, you'll stay sober, and truly you will grow with your God to new levels in love and service. God bless you all – congrats and good luck. Please let me know how I can help all of you – especially Ed – to be of maximum service to our awesome Area.

Since the elections, last Sunday, I've sent out emails – if you didn't get them, update your email with me, please. I printed the minutes (wrongly) and corrected them, so if they look a bit off this month, I apologize. Thank you to our new Alternate Delegate in training Jesus for the translation. If any Spanish/English speakers are looking for a way to be of service, we have a very serious translation need at the Area level – please see Jesus to get involved. If you have reports to turn in, here is the spot, and thank you again for letting me be of service. I remain, for another 2 months, your humble Area Secretaria, Barbara D. Gracias!

Old Business:

- 2016 Calendar – presented by Area Chair - Passed
- Executive committee recommends the Area discontinue lease of copier – presented by Executive Committee – Motion Withdrawn

- Executive committee recommends MSCA 09 create a Guidelines & Policy Committee to begin with Panel 66. – presented by Executive Committee – Motion Passed
- Executive committee recommends the creation of a 2nd Area Treasurer position to begin with Panel 66 – presented by Executive Committee. – Motion Passed

New Business:

- Audit Committee Presentation
- Grapevine/ La Vina Guidelines
- Area Budget
- YPAA Letter of Recommendation

Standing Committee Reports: (Submitted In Writing)

Archives Tony: It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this past year as your MSCA #09 Archives Chair. Our accomplishments this past year have been: 1) Group history reports for a majority of meetings in our Area. There are still a few groups not accounted for. 2) The third Saturday of each month we host Movie Night – Cokes, chips, and hot dogs are free & all AA members are welcome! 3) Our Area is considered to have the best Archives repository in all of AA, next to GSO in New York, of course. We are open to all members of AA. Open hours are every Saturday between the hours of 9am and 1pm. We are also open by request anytime you want us – just call or email your request. Also if you have any questions or requests for the Archives Committee you may call or email us your request and we will get back to you within 48 hours or your pizza is free. 4) With the death of Bob from District #06, a long time member of AA, it came to the attention of the Archives Committee that there are many long time members with 30 or more years of sobriety that we do not have on record. If you know of any members with 30 years or more, please submit their name and contact info to the Archives Committee. We can then interview them to have their stories on permanent record at the Archives Repository. After many years, over 15, or trying to gain access to the Los Angeles AA Archives with no luck, we have finally gotten permission. They will unlock the doors and let us visit and review the LA Archives. This is important because this is where Area #09 came from. As your Mid-Southern California Archives Chair, let me make this very clear – the purpose of the Archives is to serve this Area – all of you! With this said, the most important thing we have accomplished is bring back harmony and a good working relationship with this committee. I am so looking forward to continuing to serve all of you!

CEC Mike: We met with 2 members in attendance this month, Judy B the DCMC from District #12 and the new CEC Chair from District #12, Marilyn. This month we discussed the CEC Literature.

Communications Kris: No Report

CPC Maryka: No Report

CPC Spanish Juan: No Report

Convention Liaison Marilyn: No Report

Corrections Ramon: 5 Committee members met and discussed the need to postpone the project of the Correspondence workshop indefinitely. It was suggested that the next Committee Chair decide upon the possibility of still doing the workshop this following year, with the Committee and Area's full support.

DCM School Jim: No Report

DCM School Spanish Jose A: No Report

Finance Rich W: No Report

Grapevine Ed: No Report

GSR School English Sandi: We had 7 peeps in attendance once I passed out the handouts. Reviewed the format and discussed what being a GSR is all about. We took turns sharing ways to pass on information to our groups.

GSR School Spanish Amador: No Report

La Viña Victor: No Report

Literature English Kitty: No Report

Literature Spanish Mauricio: No Report

Public Information Deborah: 5 Committee members in attendance today. We covered the PI Guidelines and discussed placing PI racks in High Schools and getting letters out to District Offices for permission. Rodrigo explained how Spanish PI works. Also discussed were flyers for 'adopt a rack' and volunteers for maintaining them.

Registration Casey: No Report

Special Needs Gene: 2 of us met and discussed the Loners Internationalists meetings with an overview of how it started. Gave out handouts of online meeting lists. We discussed mental health and accessibility issues and the need for meeting in rural areas. Discussion also of the California relay to TDD system, whereby we can 'talk' with deaf members.

Treatment Facilities Dawn: We met with 3 members today and worked with the Area webmaster to improve accessibility to the Treatment tab on the Area website. Discussed direct links to the Treatment tab from both H & I and District websites. Also discussed mailings to treatment centers and facilities. Clarified the roll of Bridging the Gap.

Coordinate Committee Reports:

AOCYPAA - No Report

Inland Empire H&I - No Report

Harbor Area Central Office –

District Reports (submitted in writing):

District 1 Maryka: No Report

District 2 Tanya: No Report

District 3 Dee Dee: No Report

District 4 Barbara: Our monthly District meeting is held at Resurrection Lutheran Church at Cherry and Carson in Long Beach. GSR School starts at 6:30pm and the business portion begins at 7pm. We then follow that with a Concepts Study group, so we have a full evening of fun and service! Snacks are usually served. This month our DCMC Hiro was traveling so our Alternate Delegate, Gilbert G, led this month business meeting. Gilbert is also our DCMC elect for Panel #66 so it was a lovely opportunity for him to take the reins of the District in preparation, & he was roundly applauded by our District.

District 5 Ryan: Held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm in Santa Ana – this month we had approximately 15 in attendance. Last month we held our District elections for the upcoming Panel #66. Evan J was elected our new DCMC. Many thanks to Area Officers Joe C and Jesus O for coming out to help facilitate our elections! November 12th is our next District meeting. We look forward to having Area Archivist Pete B come out to do an Archives presentation for us. We will also have pizza available in celebration of the Gratitude Month of November.

District 6 Ashly: No Report

District 7 Lisa: No Report

District 8 Matthew: No Report

District 9 John: No Report

District 10 Carlos: We meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at Wilshire Church, this month with 18 District members in attendance. We discussed the results of the Area elections and we welcomed our new District Panel, to be seated in January for Panel #66. The upcoming ASC and Servathon were announced. Discussed ways to improve group contributions to the District, with emphasis on educating members on where their contributions go. We celebrated Gratitude month by opening the podium to all for sharing about what they are grateful for.

District 11 Don: District elections this month produced the following results – DCMC: Veronica M, Alt DCMC: Tony H, Secretary: Rose H, Treasurer: Tony L, Registrar: Andrew A. Congratulations to all. Both Area Treasurer Rozanne & Area Secretary attended our elections. We also discussed the upcoming New Years Eve Alkathon to be held at the Arid Club, which is shaping up nicely and is open to all!

District 12 Kaili: I attended the Area 09 ASC (Area Service Committee) meeting on November 8th and have just a short report from that. There were four items on the agenda but none of them were presented to us pending further preparation. The meeting concluded at a record 1:30 pm! The next ASC (December) will have to pick up the slack, I would imagine so it will probably be quite busy. I do have a few items from our

Delegate Cesar that you might want to pass on to your groups. GSO spent \$9,000,000.00 on group services last year. Contributions to GSO last year were under \$7,000,000.00. GSO has a policy of carrying a prudent reserve of 9 to 14 months operating expenses. It is near its low end at this time as it has a prudent reserve of 9.4 months operating expenses. Our new PSAs (Public Service Announcements) are available for viewing on **aa.org**. CNN will be showing them on their network. 9 U.S. airports will also be showing them on their in-airport news monitors. I also attended the Servathon in Torrance on November 14, and I'm so glad I did as I was able to get clarification concerning the *Bridging the Gap* and the *Contact Upon Release* programs at the Treatment round table. The Servathon was beautifully organized but unfortunately not well attended. I was really hoping to see more than just us 2 or 3 District 12 members. Maybe next year! We'll see you next month at our last Panel 64 District meeting. Bring another AA if you like; this will be a very short meeting in order to have a Grapevine writers' workshop while we dine on pizza. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

District 14 Karen H: No Report

District 15 Leslie: No Report

District 17 Mary W: We meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, this month with 29 in attendance, at our new location at the Center for Spiritual Living, 26805 Murrieta Road, Sun City 92585. Our Treasurer wants to propose a motion to change the financial computer program for the District from Excel to QuickBooks. A moment of silence was held for Gilbert C (GSR – 7pm Monday Lil Big Book Mtg in Murrieta), whom we will miss. Upcoming events include the Grapevine Writers Workshop on November 21st at 1pm at the Provident Bank on the corner of Sun City Blvd and Cherry Hill. Our District #17 elections will be held on Tuesday November 10th.

District 18: No Report

District 19 Gary W: No Report

District 20 Luciano: No Report

District 21: No Report

District 22 Juan: No Report

District 23 Rafael: No Report

District 24 Pedro: No Report

District 25 Refugio: No Report

District 30 Becky: No Report

Recap of Actions:

- Approval of Minutes from August.
- No Audit Committee report.
- YPAA letter request postponed.
- Area Budget also postponed.
- Grapevine / La Vina guidelines awaiting translation.

Announcements:

Servathon – this coming Saturday, November 14, 2015 at West High School in Torrance.

Birthdays:

Alicia 31, Ryan 7, Tara 5, Michelle 12, and Doug 22. Congratulations to all!

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm, motion made by Jesus, 2nd by Jose A and meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement in both English and Spanish.

Minutes respectfully submitted by your grateful MSCA 09 Panel #64 Secretary, Barbara D.