

Sunday December 6, 2020

Cooperation with The Elder Community Committee Meeting Minutes
Panel 70 | Mid-Southern California Area 9

Participants: Jerry S., Ed L., Michael M., Elizabeth, Grant T., Carol B., Caroline P., Sharon S.

Call to Order by Jerry at 6 pm followed by the Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement and introductions.

Jerry discussed the Elder Questionnaire survey results to date- see attached Pdf files:

Survey suggests it would be beneficial to have designated meetings that are accessible to elders in meeting directories.

- Would it be possible for Area 9 Intergroups/Central Offices to publish “Accessible/Senior Friendly” meetings in directories based on “suggested” guidelines for what a safe meeting environment looks like. Meetings that follow C.D.C and state guidelines, ADA guidelines, where there are no physical barriers, stairs, bathrooms, parking etc. Some meetings do not meet ADA requirements.

Elizabeth thinks some of the meetings in District 6 may already be designated accessible.

Sharon spoke with Inland Empire Intergroup and there are meetings in this area that are not accessible due to basement stairs, etc. Office manager said they could assist in designation when more meetings are opened up for in-person attendance.

Jerry suggested it was important to coordinate and have a standard for senior accessible meetings for designation and reviewed Madison, WI information.

- Suggested - Madison, WI. Area Intergroup Central Office <https://aamadisonwi.org> “inspects” meetings prior to listing them in directories as “accessible” to ensure “Senior Friendly” meeting environments are accessible.

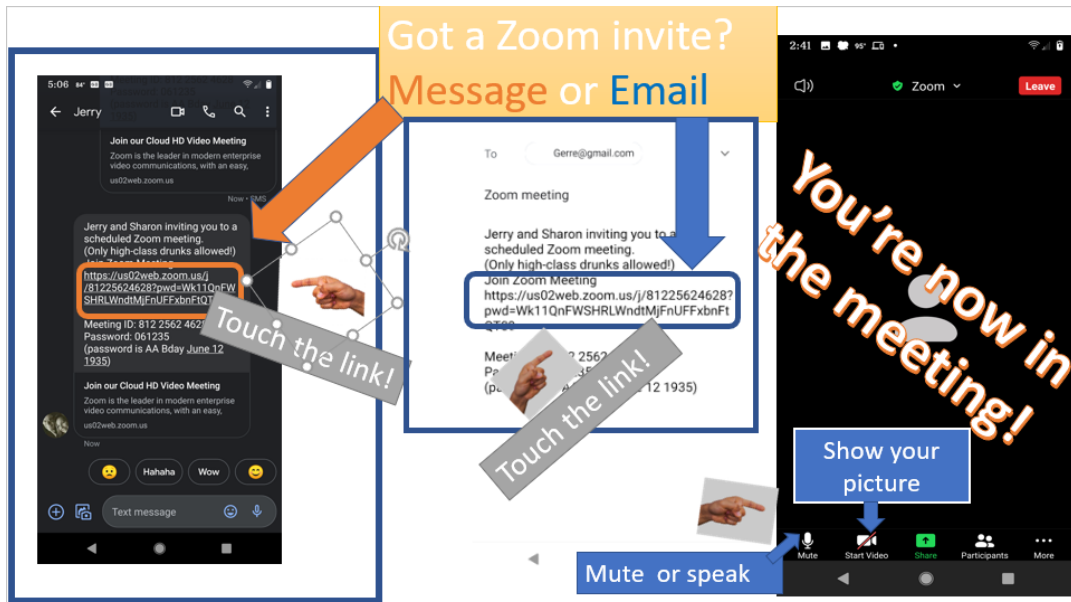
Grant offered to put together a brief “tip sheet” on what an accessible meeting would look like, following ADA and other considerations, to ease attendance for elders. He will work with Jerry to develop.

Ed suggested putting a literature list together for meetings to include for Elder members, including large print copies of Big Book, 12x12, pamphlets and other pertinent literature.

Jerry discussed the need for the following to assist Elders access on-line/phone meetings:

- Online meetings to have phone volunteers to help elders get online with clear instructions for meeting access on the internet or from a landline and designate in meeting directories.
 - Area 72 has an active volunteer program and gives permission and encourages us to adapt their resources to our Area 9-District needs. (See Area 72 eastsideaa.org [Need help Zooming to meetings? – Eastside AA](#) and [Did you know? All AA Zoom meetings are accessible via landline/phone only?](#))

Elizabeth shared, in her Saturday Night Live meeting in Huntington Beach they started contacting everyone when Covid started, many members are Elders, to assist on-line meeting access. She stated they found needs for equipment and technology for some, in addition to signing on to meetings. She suggested finding a means for members to donate refurbished equipment to those elders or other members in need. She also stated that some of the internet companies are offering free service so some in need during Covid and that may be a possibility for some elders.



Jerry reviewed Help for Elders “Cue Cards” he developed for tech challenged seniors and thinks this idea needs collaboration with P.I. and Tech committees to expand and refine this idea so it is viable. He will further coordinate with these committees for best option.

Elizabeth suggested a possible “Senior App” to be developed to assist Elders in accessing Zoom and will bring this up to a member of the Technology Committee.

Jerry also plans to work with the Technology Committee to develop an Area 9 wide platform to assist ease of access and internet accessibility for elders - a “One Stop Shop” for all things A.A. Develop an “Elders Corner” for issues of interest for our elder community. Ed stated that new webmaster and website plan to be transitioned January 1st and is under development.

Jerry discussed the options for those elders that are hearing impaired and the need for closed captioning and designation in meeting directories. One resource he demonstrated for tonight’s meeting. This app gives a running transcript of meeting and costs about \$30/month [Otter.ai](https://otter.ai)

Jerry discussed opportunities for communication, cooperation and collaboration with other Area 9 committees, Intergroups /Central Offices to establish what goals could be more effectively addressed and any overlapping goals-solutions.

Ed suggested Jerry attend DCM breakout at the Area Meeting on Sunday and ask to give a brief, 5 minutes or so, presentation on CEC and volunteers needed to address the needs of the Elder AA member. He also suggested posting the questionnaire results and other CEC information on the Area Website and Michael thinks a brief article to accompany this would be a good idea.

Michael and Ed also suggested meeting with districts to share CEC information and Elder AA needs. Ed shared updated district contact list in chat.

An email blast with CEC info, need for volunteers, and questionnaires went out to districts and central offices within Area 9. Hard copy mailings, approximately 14, were sent to those districts without online contact info, including all Spanish districts.

Jerry will continue to seek support from Grapevine and La Viña committees and other avenues for providing subscriptions to Elders in need. Jerry, in response to the Help for the Elders questionnaire offer, has purchased and will forward 5 Grapevine and 1 La Viña subscriptions when received.

Jerry discussed an AARP article, that included contacts and resources for Elders suffering from alcoholism. He would love to work with Public Information and Literature Committee to place Public Service Announcements aimed at the elder through Senior newsletters, radio and TV stations. One example is from a May 11, 2020 AA.org Public Information Committees Press Release [Physically Distanced but Digitally Connected The Alcoholics Anonymous Message Carries On Amid Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Michael reviewed some of the past activities of CEC, including providing literature to Huntington Beach nursing homes and senior facilities. She states the Archives should contain more information as well. Michael stated a willingness to volunteer and assist with committee activities as needed.

Other committees are also expressing need to reach the Elder alcoholic, including Technology, Remote Communities and Accessibilities Committees - we have many overlapping goals.

Jerry discussed what is being done in different areas and at World Services; he is awaiting Accessibilities packet from Irene at GSO, since CEC is under that umbrella currently.

From GSO ***Pass it on to groups, districts, Central Offices*** - opportunity for older alcoholics to submit their story to Irene D., secretary, trustees' The Conference Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee who is reopening GSO [Call for Stories from Older Alcoholics](#) to update the pamphlet "[A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late](#)". Ed states the deadline for submission has been extended to January 15, 2021.

On the east coast the All Area Accessibility Committee meets the 2nd & 4th Monday, 7:00PM - 8PM Eastern Standard Time (4pm PST) **Zoom ID 690-393-7306, pw: Area45**

Ed shared he attends a Seniors in Sobriety meeting out of Fresno and shared info in the chat: Fresno, these are two meetings I attend, called "Seniors in Sobriety:" Wednesday 3 pm, Meeting ID = 994 9751 8216, Password: Sierra AND Saturday 3:30 pm, Meeting ID: 510 021

**157, Password: Sierra and this is the best link I've found for workshops:
<https://tinyurl.com/AAFlyers>**

Jerry shared continuing C.E.C. Area 9 goals as CDC and State mandates allow.

- Continue to look for opportunities to give Grapevine/La Viña subscriptions isolated elders.
- Distribute literature and meeting schedules to senior focused locations.
- Review Cooperation with the Elder Community” pamphlet/brochure MSCAA approved published 2006 [Front:](#) [Back:](#)

Michael states new contact phone numbers would be needed if this were to be used.

- Orange Co., San Bernardino Co. and Riverside Co. [senior centers mailing](#) list -

Ed suggested a “pilot” calling to 3 centers to ask if center would be willing and able to distribute-make available AA literature, digitally or by hard copies to Elders that may need it or know someone that may need it.

- Jerry nominated Grant to be the CEC Co-Chairperson, all were in favor and he accepted nomination. Jerry will present to Area 9 for approval.

New Committee business: To be addressed at Area 9 AREA ASSEMBLY December 13th, 2020

- **Review and accept minutes from 10/11/20 and 12/6/20.**
- Review [proposed CEC guideline updates - last revised 2006](#)
- We will need local area volunteers to contact locations by phone, email, letter; assist elders by phone to access meetings and technology, etc.
- Review proposed 2020-2021 budget submitted- Jerry will provide copy for group at next meeting.
- Next meeting will be a breakout session at the Area 9 Assembly meeting on December 13, 2020, Sunday. General meeting opens at 8:30, starts at 9:00, with CEC at approximately 9:30 am

Adjourn at 7 p.m.

Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication on behalf of our Elder AA members (current and potential)!

Yours in Grateful Service,

Sharon S. CEC Secretary