

**The Southern California Area  
Of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Assembly Minutes  
Sunday, January 22, 2006  
Business Magnet High School  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1513**

Chairman Gustavo T. called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM with a moment of silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*.

The *Twelve Concepts* were read in Spanish by Robert, GSR from District 35.  
The *Twelve Traditions* were read in English by Alison, GSR from District 10.

A.A. birthdays for the months of November, December and January were recognized and applauded.

Registrar Ben Hancock took roll:

66 GSRs  
20 DCMs/Alt DCMs acting  
3 DCMCs  
7 Area Officers  
12 Standing Committee Chairs  
3 Past Delegates  
18 Others

139 Total

Districts unrepresented: 6, 7, 15, 17, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 46, 58

**Approval of the Assembly Minutes of October 29, 2005**

Secretary Gordy H. distributed the Assembly Minutes of October 29, 2005, as printed in the Winter 2006 SCAAN. Ralph made a motion to approve the minutes. Suki, District 30, seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed, none opposed.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Gustavo T. amended the agenda to include a second vote for the 2006 Budget and asked for a motion to approve the day's amended Agenda. Mike D., DCM District 9, made a motion to approve the agenda. Bill J. seconded the motion. The motion passed, none opposed.

**Officers' Reports**

**Registrar Ben H.:** I sent a recent change to our records to GSO. Please let me know if you haven't received correspondence from GSO and I will contact them.

**Contributions Treasurer Marcus F.:** I am making adjustments to my bilingual report to ensure that it is 100% bilingual. The second half of last year was over \$20,000, which would project out to \$40K for a year. Please contact your group treasurers to address any errors in your group information.

**Accounts Treasurer Shami H.:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Year-End Report is available and we're balanced.

**Secretary Gordy H.:** Seventh tradition flyers and buckets are available to gather contributions from your groups. Let me know if you're interested in participating in this project. If you would like to attend our PRAASA lunch and dinner, let me know.

**Alternate Delegate Charlie W.:** I want to thank you for your support in the wake of my wife's passing. I visited Area 8 and 9's elections, the Spanish Foro, the Spanish H and I Conference, the H and I Intergroup meetings (Spanish and English) and the LA Central Office, who had a recent election. I will keep you updated on further developments on the starting of a regional GSO office. I visited one of the Spanish Central Offices. We intend to visit all four. I have information on the H and I conference in April.

**Delegate Jim W.:** PRAASA is up coming and I hope you all attend. The preliminary conference agenda is out. I will distribute the final conference agenda in a few weeks. If DCMs are interested in writing background material on agenda items, please let me know. The 2007 Membership Survey is being conducted again this year. 2005 contributions were up 11%. Big book distribution was down last year, in the wake of the recent publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Chairman Gustavo T.:** I encourage all DCMs to attend the 4 Area DCM Sharing Session in February. Thanks to District 10 for hosting our assembly today.

**Presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

**Alt. Delegate Charlie W.:** (this is a submitted written report previously printed in Winter 2006 SCAAN)

Earlier this year while attending an event at another Area, I heard that some of our employees at our New York office were working 14 & 18-hour days and were not getting paid for the extra hours. That bothered me! I also heard that we were paying our employees equivalent salaries as other nonprofit organizations, but not well enough to attract the best-qualified people. This also bothered me. My thoughts were that we should be setting our own salary standards; not excepting some one else's, and our employees *should* be paid for their overtime even if they don't want it. Some said that they would work at our office for nothing if they could afford to do so.

At one of our Assemblies we spent a few hours discussing whether to fund our Delegate to go to the International Convention or not. Most of the talk was focused on finances or lack of money. One of our budget meetings lasted over 11 hours... and at one of our Area Committee Meetings that we had extended two hours so our DCM's could have a sharing session, we ended up spending the extra time talking about budgets! I began to wonder if we were putting our focus too much on money, and not keeping it where it should be, on carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Since I'm not qualified to take the Area's or our New York office's inventory, I took my own. I found that I needed to change how I handled my money. I started putting \$2.00 in the basket about six months after I got sober, that's when I was able to stop smoking after smoking for 46 years. My thoughts were that since I didn't have to smoke my three packs a day anymore, and if I didn't go to over three meetings a day. At \$2.00 a meeting I would just be putting my cigarette money in the basket. The only trouble with that is that I'm still putting \$2.00 in the basket after 16 years! So I've made a decision to increase my donations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to \$4.00 a meeting, instead of the usual \$2.00.

While reading the Conference Report I read where at the 18<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference they discovered that Ireland had become the first Country to have its General Service Structure completely supported by Group contributions. It seems that Ireland decided to start using European euros instead of the Irish Pounds for money. The euro was not worth as much as the pound so there was a suggestion to their members that they put two euros in the basket instead of the customary one-pound to make up the difference. *It Worked!* In fact, it worked so well that not only did their Service Structure become completely supported by their Groups, but they also had money left over which they donated to the International translation fund.

*I got excited... here was the answer!* All we need to do is ask our Groups to discuss suggesting to our members that they put two bucks in the basket instead of the customary one, and in a short period of time all our local Service Entities would be completely supported by the Groups. It would take more Areas than ours and a bit longer to make our New York office completely supported by the Groups. But I believe it will happen. We just need to inform our members. What a joy it would be for our H&I & Central Office Intergroups not to have to do fund raisers, and to take cans to meetings to get money to pay their bills and to buy literature to take into the prisons and hospitals. What a joy not to have those long loving discussions at our Assemblies about lack of money, and not to have those long budget meetings! Our General Service Office might even be able to sell our literature at what it cost to print and ship it.

MAYBE WE COULD ALL GET OUR FOCUS BACK ON CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

### **Committee Meetings**

We broke into committee meetings at 10:02 am. We reconvened with the Serenity prayer at 11:05 a.m.

### **Standing Committees' Reports**

**Accessibilities Ad-Hoc Chair Mary T.:** Two people attended. Our charge is to look at the issue of accessibility to AA. I have been asked by the Area Chair to present our recommendation at the next ACM and Area Assembly.

**Finance Chair Mike P.:** Nine people attended. We discussed the need to do an audit of the Area financial officers, as well as a material inventory. We are discussing developing new financial guidelines. We will meet on February 18<sup>th</sup> to begin this process.

**Public Information acting chair Tracy C.:** We have four ongoing projects. The Westside Districts are distributing literature to high schools. District 14 is holding a service day soon. The Spanish Districts PI Committee is trying to get the Big Book, Living Sober and AA Comes of Age in Spanish into local libraries. They are accepting donations and books. The Spanish PI Committee meets monthly. We have set aside for the discussion of a new young people's video at this time.

**Audio Visual chair David B.:** Guillermo, our Spanish Districts AV rep, is translating our flyer. We will be attending the District 14 service day with TV and videos. Amelia, a member of our committee, is researching transferring VHS to DVD. I recently showed our film on GSO at the Hollywood Districts. We are available to show videos at any meeting.

**Archives chair Nadine S.:** We will be at District 14 Service Day with our archives display, as well as at the Spanish Combined meeting this fall. We are reviewing our guidelines, which have not been updated since 1985. We are looking to translate some of our materials into Spanish. We have found a storage area that is covered. March 18<sup>th</sup> is the date we will be visiting our storage area to inventory and review our items.

**Guidelines and Policies chair Martha S.:** We discussed assisting districts in developing their guidelines. We are designing an orientation workshop to explain our guidelines. We also discussed how to take proposals we receive and how we intend to process them.

**Registration chair George P.:** We reviewed the districts maps for the website on the web master. We also discussed our online group registration form. Email me if you would like to see what the maps look like.

**Four Area DCM Sharing Session chair Patti W.:** Area 5, 8, 9, and 93 are holding the session on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Lakewood. We started planning last August and we've been meeting monthly since then. This event is held annually to promote General Service. We have eight roundtables which handles a different topic.

**CPC chair Estill M.:** We will be hosting a CPC booth at the National Convention for Case Managers in April. GSO provides the materials.

**Literature chair Lucy E.:** We have recently translated our local pamphlet, ORDERED TO ATTEND, into Spanish. We are in the process of determining how many to print.

**Newsletter chair Tom B.:** Thanks to Juan and Fidel for their translation efforts, and all the people who submit articles. We need input on ideas for new content for SCAAN, like a question and answer column. I urge all committee chairs to submit a report. District 35 has provided a meeting list in Spanish and English for the SCAAN. This is our first issue to be published on the area website.

**Website Committee chair Ian T.:** We will be attending the District 14 service workshop with a prototype of the new website, which includes interactive district maps and specific area committee descriptions. The new site will allow GSR and DCM to submit registration changes.

**Grapevine/La Vina alternate chair Eric H./ Lark O., DCM District 43:** We had 11 people today from nine districts. We discussed the origins of the Grapevine, the use of it in Twelfth step work and in prisons. We are working on a La Vina room at the upcoming Spanish convention on May 2-4. We encourage the groups to purchase subscriptions, as well as individuals for gifts to fellow alcoholics and/or newcomers.

**Treatment Facilities chair Eugene C.:** We have a bimonthly meeting at Baker's Square Restaurant, 473 Rosemead Blvd. in Pasadena at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Ten people attended today from four districts. District 13 is starting a temporary contact program. District 5 is working a bridging the gap program. District 18 started a temporary contact program a year ago and we just got our first phone call last week. District 3 visits four treatment facilities a month, bringing in various meetings. They are planning a three-day Big Book workshop every six months. I ask all DCMs to spread the word about participating in our committee work.

### **Lunch**

Chairman Gustavo T. called a break for lunch at 11:40 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at approx. 12:45 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **POSSIBLE LETTER TO GSO ON 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION (tabled motion from October 2005 Assembly)**

Chairman T. put the motion back on the table by rereading the original motion, which states:

"That the General Service Office and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., charge all purchasers only the actual total cost of producing and shipping books."

Discussion ensued. Mary T. moved to table the motion to the July Assembly. It was seconded. A vote was taken, and by simple majority, the motion passed. Minority opinion was asked for and expressed. The chairman corrected himself, and acknowledged that minority opinion was out of order. Motion passed.

#### **Second Vote of Approval of 2006 Budget**

Mike P., Area Finance Chair, introduced the 2006 budget, fielded questions and made a motion to approve the budget, dated 10.29.05. Marcus F. seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The question was called. By substantial majority, the motion passed. Minority opinion was requested and none was offered. Motion passed.

Chairman T. announced that Jim T. of District 30 was in the hospital and prayers were expressed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Selection of Hosts for the Pre-Conference General Services Workshop, April 1-2, 2006, the May 13, 2006 Assembly and the July 29, 2006 Assembly**

Chairman T. took nominations to host the Pre-Conference General Services Workshop, April 1-2, 2006. The Combined Westside Districts offered to host. By acclamation of hand, the Combined Westside Districts was named host.

Chairman T. took nominations to host May 13, 2006 Assembly. The Combined Spanish Districts offered to host. By acclamation of hand, the Combined Spanish Districts was named host.

Chairman T. took nominations to host July 29, 2006 Assembly. District 13 offered to host. By acclamation of hand, District 13 was named host.

#### **Two Dollar Contribution Recommendation**

Charlie W., Alternate Delegate, made a motion to take the suggestion of putting two dollars in the basket instead of one back to the districts and groups for discussion. Charlie (not W.) seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The question was called. By substantial majority, the motion passed. Minority opinion was called for and expressed. The question was asked of the prevailing side whether any member wanted to change their vote, and two people did. A vote was taken whether to revote, and by simple majority, the vote to revote passed. Discussion reopened on the original motion. The question was called. By substantial majority, the motion passed.

**New GSR Open Mike**

Chairman T. invited GSRs to come to the mike to share and ask questions. Much loving discussion followed.

Chairman T. asked for announcements for the Good and Welfare of AA. There were no announcements.

Chairman T. accepted a motion to adjourn at approx. 2:15 p.m., followed by a second. The motion passed.

We closed with the Responsibility Statement in both Spanish and English.

Language Interpreters were Patricia and Edgar.

Special thanks to Scott M. for being the "Sound Guy".

**Refreshments and Lunch – Income and Expense**

Income (Contributions on site)

Food Expense:

Net Change shown as – Income / (Expense):