

**The Southern California Area
Of Alcoholics Anonymous
Assembly Minutes
Sunday, July 29, 2007
San Vicente Church
2333 S Figueroa St
Los Angeles, Ca 90007**

Chairman Ben H called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Concepts were read in English by Carol of District 25.
The Twelve Traditions were read in Spanish by Raul of District 35.

A.A. birthdays for the months of June and July were recognized and applauded.

Chairman Ben H. announced that the host Districts (the Combined Spanish speaking Districts) were paying for all the food and the location through their own contributions. Therefore there were no Area 05 Contribution cans set out or passed, and no money collected at this Assembly.

Registrar George P took roll:

52 GSRs/Alt GSRs
24 DCMs/Alt DCMs
3 DCMCs
7 Area Officers
10 Standing Committee Chairs
3 Past Delegates
14 others

Total 113
Voting 101

Districts not represented: 5, 6, 8, 17, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 58.

Approval of the Assembly Minutes of May 20, 2007

Secretary Tom B noted that the minutes printed in the SCAAN were missing the last 2 pages, and that there were copies in English and Spanish distributed on the hand out table. Tom then made a motion to approve the May 20, 2007 minutes which was seconded by Joe McC. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ben H made a motion to approve the agenda, Tom B. seconded. The motion passed, none opposed.

Officers' Reports

Accounts Treasurer Gordy H: I basically handle the Area checking account and balance the check book. The financial reports that were approved at the last ACM were incorrect, there was some contributions that were made that didn't match, so we had to revise the reports and now they are correct. Martha and I are on the same page and the numbers match so at the August ACM we will present the 1st quarter 2007 reports for approval. I have distributed the financial report for you to take a look at before it is approved.

Alternate Delegate Mike P: Besides being your Alternate Delegate, I am also your liaison to our local Hospitals and Institutions, and our local Los Angeles Central Office. There really is nothing to report from either of those groups. We got 15 groups for the Tri annual survey, the membership survey that is done by GSO every 3 years, and Gustavo has split them up into half...He has assigned me the Eastern half, and he'll take the Western side of our Area.

Chairman Ben H: My report is written in the SCAAN. We had an officers meeting where we approved a \$364.00 expense to translate the Finance Guidelines. We paid out \$1,400.00 to the PRAASA 2010 Committee to reserve the hotel for 2010, which we then got reimbursed for from the PRAASA 2010 funds. We will be having a steering committee meeting in Hollywood at Grupo Akron on September 8th where we will be having an Area Committee Chair orientation. We ask that especially all Committee Chairs attend. Also we will be hammering out the annual 2008 Area Budget at the August Area Committee meeting and need all the Committee Chairs to submit their budgets before that time so we can move that meeting along and not spend all day correcting what Gordy will be presenting.

Secretary Tom B: I first want to apologize to David B for the mix-up which I created by not giving him the minutes in it's entirety for printing in the SCAAN. I originally told him that I would print out the minutes in English and Spanish and bring them to the Assembly, but when I sent part of them

to the Translation Committee minus the last 2 pages for translation, they got E-mailed to David which he had printed not realizing that the last 2 pages were missing. I have visited all the Districts on the East side of the Area, and now will spend the rest of the year visiting the Westside and Spanish Districts. I also have the 2008 Area calendar on the hand out table for you to check out and will be asking for your approval later in the Assembly.

Registrar George P: For you DCM's, or if you are here representing your District, the box at the end of the Registration table has information regarding the list of groups, GSR's etc. in your District that you need to pick up. Also, please do not take the GSR sign-in sheets...there are a couple missing, so if you walked off with them, please return them!

Contributions Treasurer Martha S: I take your Contributions and deposit them, and also pick up the Area mail...*Please make out your contributions checks payable to SCAA or Southern California Area Assembly, and not to Area 5, or AA or something like that.* I'll have to send back to you checks that are not made out so I can determine where the group actually wants them to go. I have the 1st quarter contributions report for 2007, and they are on the hand-out table. Take a look at them, and we will be asking for your approval at the next ACM. Also, if when looking at this report on the last page you'll see District 99, which is where I don't know your District number. Please, all DCM's take a look at the District 99 groups, and if you recognize any of the groups that happen to be in your District, please let me know, and better yet let the groups know what District they are in so they can write that on their checks.

Delegate Gustavo T: From August 1st to August 14th we will be visiting the 15 groups selected at random by GSO to participate in the Fellowship Survey 2007. Along with Mike P., we are asking for help from the GSR's of those groups, or DCM's of that particular District if there is no GSR to accomplish this service. In regard to my Panel 57 General Service Conference report, I have finished visiting the Districts and groups who invited me to give the report. It has been a great experience. The final General Service Conference Report will be arriving by the end of August. Last weekend we attended the first Area 8 Spanish Speaking General Service Foro in Solana California. More than 250 alcoholics attended, and all 4 Southern California Delegates and 2 Trustees participated. Also in attendance were the new trustee Class A Judge Rogelio F and class B trustee Paul C. On September 16th we are invited to attend the Area 9 2nd annual Public Information Workshop in Anaheim...for more information you can see me or ask our PI Chair Tracy C. We are invited to participate at the Foothill Roundup on August 3rd through 5th, where we will have a General Service room for the Area Committees to set up and be there for information to AA's who attend. The Spanish Speaking Districts will be having meetings before and afternoon as well. We are also invited to attend and support the new group, "Seniors in Sobriety" on Tuesdays, 10:00 AM at 4117 Overland Bl in Culver City 90230. Finally I have to report that our most recent past Pacific Region trustee Phyllis H suffered a stroke...but she is doing well and recovering at home.

PRAASA 2010 Report

Mary T Past Delegate reports: The last time our Area hosted the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) was in 1990, which means that when we host it in 2010 it will have been 20 years! It will be held at the Radisson (LAX) Hotel on the corner of Sepulveda and Century near the airport. The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the 15 States of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange ideas and experiences, and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. The Assembly and the PRAASA Committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of AA. It is 48 hours of speaking the language of the heart. I want to thank Gustavo for asking me to be Chair of the PRAASA 2010 Committee, and I'm asking him to be co-chair when he rotates out. Past Delegates Jim W will be Hospitality Chair, and Jim I and Juan M will co-chair the program Committee. Your Alternate Delegate Mike P. has been added to the committee and is currently serving as the PRAASA 2010 treasurer. The hotel wanted some deposit money, and Gustavo personally signed a contract guaranteeing about \$150,000.00 worth of business. We had to give the hotel a deposit of \$1,400.00 from the previous PRAASA seed money. We will need literally hundreds of volunteers...probably one minute after the 2008 Area elections I will be signing you up for commitments. I want to encourage you to attend the next 2 PRAASA's but especially the one before ours in Oakland, and stay until the post PRAASA meeting where the hosting PRAASA Committee will tell of their experiences hosting the event.

Eric K. Finance Chair: I want to stress the importance of all the committees to spend their time in their committee meetings today to come up with a budget for 2008. Your budget should include 2 different categories...1) Routine expenses... like rent, mileage, postage, supplies, literature, telephone etc. and 2) Special Projects...like Convention expenses for CPC, special literature expenses for a particular event etc. Gordy H. also stressed the importance of the committees to submit a budget...he stated that there are 10 to 11 Committee Chairs here today that need to present budgets.

Marcus F. Website Chair: Along with Ian T. your Webmaster, and the Website Committee, we are responsible for maintaining the contents of your Area Website. There are handouts on the table for you to look at in order to prepare for this afternoon's discussion about what you would like to have as the content of the Website. We need a policy for what we allow and don't allow on our Website. This is a 12 Traditions discussion as it applies to our Website.

Committee Meetings

We broke into committee meetings at 10:10 am. We reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter (SCAAN): David B, Chair reports that they had 1 new member, Katie A. from District 3. Needs articles, especially from group treasuries

and experiences along those lines...and don't forget humor!

Finance Committee: Chair Eric K; I chaired the financial committee meeting which was quite active. We decided to table the revision on the upper and lower cash flow limits. We also had a lot of discussion about the budget preparation which I had talked with you about earlier. We may have to revise the budgeting of the Assemblies, and Committee meetings, as well as the Delegate's expenses before we come up with the proposed budget for next year. We discussed our own committee budget, which this year included the Financial guidelines and the Spanish Translation of those guidelines and their costs. We have distributed them for your review, and if you have any questions or comments about them, please let me or anyone on the Committee know.

PI: Tracy C Chair; We had the biggest and most power-packed Committee meeting at this Assembly that I've ever experienced...There were over 20 people in attendance including Gustavo! We put together an outline and suggested script, which is also translated into Spanish, for bringing information about AA to High Schools if any District wants to take on that project. We want to do the same thing for placing Big Books and other pieces of Literature in Libraries. Our biggest project is to try and get the current PSA's (Public Service Announcements) to radio and TV stations that might not already get them through the channels that AA is using. One of the questions raised was can we give AA World Services Public Information feedback and ideas, which of course anyone can do. So we decided to do this as an ongoing project. *There was a question: What is the name of the new PSA? Answer: It's called "A Force of Nature".*

All PSA's are translated into English, Spanish and French. The AA PI Committee is responsible for distribution and tracking of these PSA's.

Translation Committee: Fidel M, Chair, After 2 years we finally have 5 guys who attended our Committee meeting! We discussed having a budget which includes having the availability of funds for emergency translations. Our main trouble with translations is the lack of typing experience or internet/computer access. Many of the Spanish speaking AA community can understand English, but have trouble with writing it down. We believe that we need a budget which includes funds for emergency translations.

Treatment facilities: Steve B., Alternate Chair reports that Maggie B. was absent, but had GSR's from Districts 13, 3, 9, and 4. We came up with a budget of \$250.00 for Literature, and discussed having Treatment facility panels in various Treatment Facilities in each of the Districts that were present today. These panels will be talking about Sponsorship, finding a Home group, and what AA is and is not. Also the possibility of showing movies and distributing literature. We also discussed what the difference is between H&I and what they do with what our Committee is and does. We also need to get more Treatment Facility workbooks.

CPC : Erich M Chair: Reports that they had 11 people in attendance, and that they will be distributing the CPC workbooks which were obtained under the previous Chair. We will be attending the Foothill Roundup and provide information about what the CPC Committee does. We have also been invited to participate at a Conference in Pismo by Area 93, which one of our members Don C. is going to attend. Anyone who wants to help us at this Conference, please see either Don or myself. I got a letter from GSO about the California Physical Therapy Association Annual Conference which is happening at the LAX Hilton at the end of September. We have several events coming up within the next year that we are going to need staffing at so if anyone wants to be of service please let me know. I'm going to visit District 10, and the Westside combined Districts meetings because their Districts want to get involved in CPC work as District projects.

Guidelines & Polices: Chair Greg I; We had 6 in attendance, and discussed our Budget request. Our main focus was our review of the new Financial Guidelines and found a few minor changes which we will suggest in writing to the Finance Committee.

Literature: Patti W, Chair; We discussed the project of putting Big Books in libraries, and about the possibility of SELLING certain literature at our Area Assemblies. We are also considering a booklet on Sponsorship. There are so many ideas of how to Sponsor, we feel it may be helpful if there are some guidelines, especially of what is unacceptable. If you have any input and ideas that may help potential Sponsors, please E-mail the Literature Chair. The current Sponsorship pamphlet from GSO is good, but we feel there needs to be more in-depth info needed...possibly a book.

Grapevine/LaVina Chair: Jim T reports that there were 13 in attendance, and that he is looking for volunteers to help staff our Area 05 Grapevine/LaVina table at the ICYPAA Convention Aug. 31st through Sept.2.. I received some posters from GSO for a limited time free access to the AudioGrapevine & Digital Archive which has over 60 years of Grapevine articles, etc. I also got the cover copies of the 10 Grapevine CD's. I am asking our Area for a donation of 72 books of the new booklet from Grapevine/LaVina "In Our Own Words" for Young People to take to the ICYPAA Convention and donate. We submitted a budget of \$228.00.

Website: Marcus F Chair: We had 5 members in attendance. We came up with our budget of a couple hundred dollars. Most of what we discussed I'll be sharing with you in a report this afternoon.

Archives: Chair, Jose F M; We had 4 people at our meeting. We want to know how we can improve our Committee. One of our new GSR's Mary from District 36 has already started working on the history of the groups in her District. She also wanted to come up with a display for the archives so people can see them; we want people to know what we have in our Area archives. Thanks to the GSR from Friday Night Crown City group who gave us their group history.

Alternate Delegate: Mike P; The new GSR orientation was attended by over 40 new GSR's!!! We want you all to come back!

Registration committee: *(The Chair person Doug S was absent)* Chris S a member of the committee reported that District 3 has formed a sub-committee to investigate and organize the dark District of 26. We have GSR's from groups that have been participating in District 3 meetings that are outside our boundaries, and which are in fact part of District 26 which has been dark for a long time. There are some GSR's from that area that have agreed to try and start up the old District 26 with the help of District 3.

LUNCH

We broke for lunch at 12:15 and resumed the meeting at 1:03.

Finance Committee Chair Eric K announced that there are many Contribution Buckets in both English and Spanish that have printed on them what Area 05 does for the local AA groups, and what their Contributions to the Area are for; and please, all GSR's should take one or more of these buckets to have for the groups that they regularly attend.

Marcus F, Website Chair, made a presentation on Website Policies and Content: The Webmaster, Ian T, and I have received many requests to place information on the website that we feel fall into a "grey" area of what we are supposed to allow on our website according to our posting policies. Also we have received many requests that we realize do not fall into the category of allowable postings..according to our current policy. One of the newer ideas was should we post our financial reports..We just started posting the Area minutes. We feel that this does fall into the category of acceptable material to be posted on the Website. Do you agree? Actually almost all the handouts on the table produced by our Area may be considered Area information which would fall into acceptable website postings. We were asked to post ICYPAA which we believe to be in a very grey area...this year we did because LAYPAA asked us for a letter of recommendation and so this could be construed to be an event which was co-sponsored by our Area. But next year we will not post the ICYPAA Convention if our posting policy remains the same.

I would like to propose to you that we discuss the idea that we delete Section X. SCAA Website, of the current Guidelines and Policies and that the Website Committee, along with the Guidelines and Policies Committee, come up with new language for section V. (Standing committees) - M. (The Website Committee) using the description of the SCAAN as a template. Also that the Website Committee use this Section X SCAA Website, as a basis for language on the Area 05 Website Posting Policy on the actual Website. Please come up to the open mike for comments on what you would like to see the Website do on these matters. *(There was much loving discussion)* After hearing this discussion Marcus felt that there was no real complaint about his proposal and stated that the Website Committee is going to go ahead and work on new language for Section V.M. of the Guidelines and Policies, as well as the posting policies.

OLD BUSINESS

2008 Calendar approval: Tom B. made a motion to approve the proposed 2008 SCAA Calendar which was passed out at the last Assembly and approved at the last ACM and now distributed on the hand out table today. Jim seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

(There were two unbudgeted expenditure requests)

Erich M. CPC Chair made a motion to approve an unbudgeted expenditure request for \$850.00 to have a booth at the California Physical Therapy Association Convention on September 28th through the 30th. Eric K. seconded. Discussion ensued...Mary T. asked to amend the motion to include \$200.00 more for parking to reimburse those who man the booth; Erich OK'd the amendment to his motion to increase the request to \$1,050.00. The motion passed by substantial majority.

Jim T Grapevine/LaVvina Chair made a motion to approve an unbudgeted expenditure request for \$455.00 to purchase the new book published by the Grapevine "In Our Own Words", and then to be given out free at the ICYPAA Convention. Eric K seconded; there was *MUCH* discussion. First vote: yes – 31, No – 19. Motion failed. Minority opinion was expressed. Jim I. made a motion to reconsider, Mary T. seconded. Motion to reconsider passed. The original Motion was called to question and voted upon; The motion passed by substantial majority.

Announcements; Good and Welfare

Don C. appealed to all, especially Committee Chairs, to attend the Foothill Roundup on August 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

Pasqual DCM District 49 states that mistakes have been made on their receipts or they were not getting their receipts to some of the Spanish speaking groups for contributions made to GSO from New York. I think there would be more contributions if this problem was addressed. Gustavo did give us some ideas about keeping reports from each group GSR regarding their contributions. Also, we are having some problems getting LaVvina's late, or getting Literature in English instead of Spanish. Gustavo stated that he is working with these groups that are having these problems, and working with them to get them straightened out.

We closed at 3:20 PM with the Responsibility Statement in both Spanish and English.

Language Interpreters were Patricia and Edgar.

Special thanks to Bill J. for being the "Sound Guy".

Refreshments and Lunch – Income and Expense

Food Expense:	\$ 0
Income (Contributions on site):	\$ 0
Net Change shown as – Income / (Expense):	\$ 0