

**The Southern California Area
Of Alcoholics Anonymous
Assembly Minutes
Saturday October 27, 2007
La Habra United Methodist Church
631 N Euclid St.
La Habra, CA 90631**

Chairman Ben H called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Concepts were read in English by Javier of District 33.
The Twelve Traditions were read in Spanish by Chuck of District 18.

A.A. birthdays for the months of July, August, and September were recognized and applauded.

Registrar George P took roll:

51 GSRs/Alt GSRs

15 DCMs/Alt DCMs

2 DCMCs

7 Area Officers

12 Standing Committee Chairs

4 Past Delegates

15 others

Total 106

Voting 91

Districts not represented: 5, 6, 9, 15, 17, 19, 36, 37, 40, 41, 45, 56, and 58.

Approval of the Assembly Minutes of May 20, 2007

Secretary Tom B noted that the Minutes of the July 29, 2007 Assembly were printed in the SCAAN (Area 05 newsletter) and distributed here for approval. He made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg I. seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed, none opposed.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ben H noted that today's agenda was available on the handout table and asked for any amendments...there were none. He then made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Bill J. The motion passed, none opposed.

New GSR Introductions

There were 13 new GSR's who came to the mike and introduced themselves.

Committee Meetings & New GSR Orientation

We broke into the new GSR orientation and committee meetings at 9:40 am. We reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

GSR & DCM Roundtables

GSR's came to the mike to express their questions and concerns; i.e. "Is there some other way to show our group treasurer how we can contribute to all our Service entities including the District and Area other than the pie chart that they have been using in the back of the group directories?" Many other GSR's and DCM's came to the mike and gave their own solutions of how they use different percentages to break up the pie chart so the Area and their Districts get a higher percent of the groups contributions. "How do we keep our GSR's interests and keep them coming to the District meetings, how do we get the groups to have GSR's?" Keep to the point of being of service, use box 459, by all means have the GSR's PARTICIPATE in some sort of District function....Pancake breakfasts, Service Day events, find some Committee work to get involved with at the District as well as Area level etc. were some of the responses. *There were a few more questions not recorded here.*

Lunch

Delegates Report – Gustavo T

My name is Gustavo, I am an alcoholic, and I do have the privilege of serving as Panel 57 Southern California Area 05 Delegate.

I had the opportunity to attend some great events like the ICYPAA International Convention in Los Angeles, The 2nd annual Area 09 PI Workshop, and the Area 09 elections. On the hand out table I have supplied some literature, extra Final Conference Reports, PRAASA 2008 flyers, and guidelines for local Foros. Also I have put out there something for the GSR's to use next year...a GSR calendar that will help you to remember the events and activities that you should attend as part of your commitment. This was devised by Mary T. when she was our Area Delegate, and suggested that we could use it. Local Foros are taking the place of Special Foros. One important difference is that the Local Foro can be sponsored and run locally with *participation* by GSO staff. After this Assembly we will be looking forward to preparing ourselves for all the events of next year...PRAASA 2008 is just around the corner, so I encourage you to make your reservations now. The General Service Conference is being held from April 27th to May 3rd, back a week from the normal time. The Pacific Regional Forum will be held from August 29th to August 31st in Spokane Washington. Thank you, Gustavo T.

Alternate Delegates Report – Mike P

I also helped with the Area 09 elections. I attended the September H&I meeting and sent 2 contact upon release requests to them. GSO gets requests from prisoners about ready to get released, for AA contacts. GSO then sends those requests on to the Area and then I get them. As H&I liaison I then give them to H&I who has people that will initiate the contact. The manager at LA Central Office says that he is spending a lot of his time fixing problems with people cancelling their shifts at answering the phones there. At the 2006 General Service Conference they passed a motion by the Corrections Committee to make a new video for the purpose of training corrections personnel on the value of AA as a resource for inmates. We got the new video and were able to show it at the Audio/Visual Committee meeting this morning. The Spanish H&I group is having a Convention on December 2nd in East LA. Please, I invite you all to attend our own Area 05 Hispanic Foro on November 4th with English translation.

Contributions – Martha S

Today, the Finance Committee decided that the Contributions Treasurer will now collect all the contributions from the bucket drive. A method of tracking money collected from the groups regular 7th tradition contributions and the groups bucket contributions is being developed. However, if your group number or info. is not identified, the money will be credited as an anonymous contribution. Although it was not possible to generate a 2nd quarter contributions report, we did collect \$10,004.52 plus \$500.00 from Roundup contributions. I would like to thank Mary T. and Jim I. for their service in developing a new receipt system for our Area, and for helping me to maintain the financial accuracy of our system. The new receipts will begin with the 4th quarter 2007 contributions.

Accounts Treasurer – Gordy H

We brought more buckets today for you to take back to your groups and communicate with them about the Service Activities the Area is involved in. Please take this opportunity to talk to your groups about what General Service is and does. The financial reports for the 2nd and 3rd quarter are not available today. We are still getting up to speed with the computer program for contributions. We should be ready by the January 2008 Assembly.

Special Program –Diversity Panel (3 of past 4 Delegates)

Mary T. – I first heard of a discussion of diversity at a special inner-city forum in downtown Chicago. At that meeting there were people from all walks of life...It was very inspiring. Then I was asked to do a presentation on this topic at the Pacific Regional Forum in 2002. Alcoholism is an equal opportunity disease, and affects everyone everywhere, therefore it is our responsibility to reach out to all alcoholics, especially those that do not have the same access to AA as I or maybe you do. In Los Angeles, we have AA meetings in 5 different languages other than English and Spanish...better than nothing, but still not very good. We must be able to get the message out to people with accessibility needs. Action is needed; ask yourself, "What am I doing to help reach these alcoholics?"

Jim W. – Do I welcome the alcoholic who I don't know sitting next to me who may have a different opinion, and may not fit the "mainstream" that I feel is like the alcoholic who is in my "cozy little home group". Can I be better informed about those needs of the alcoholic that I don't see every day? Of course I can. There are specialty groups out there that suffer from alcoholism in ways that perhaps we don't have to. Whether or not you may participate in one of these groups is not important; what is important is do I stick my hand out and welcome them with the same heartfelt feeling like I do with the members of my home group? Are we really willing to step outside of ourselves and welcome someone who is different than us in Alcoholics Anonymous?

Jim I.- One thing that I do know is that the board of Trustees, the Conference, and the General Service Office work very hard to make Alcoholics Anonymous all inclusive, never exclusive. The Conference is continually improving literature, and researching

ways to reach more and more people. This year's Conference changed the title of the pamphlet "Can AA Help Me Too...Black African Americans Share their Stories" to "AA for the Black African American Alcoholic". The name for the AA pamphlet for senior citizens was changed from "The Time To Start Living" to "AA for the Older Alcoholic/Never Too Late". The Pamphlet for the Native American was also revised. There are Public Service Announcements that are being produced specifically targeting Senior Citizens, and young people because those groups are underrepresented in Alcoholics Anonymous. The young people's video and literature has been redone and is constantly looked at to be kept up to date. Are we doing enough in our Area and our Districts to address these issues?

There was an open mike for comments regarding the Diversity Panel

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter (SCAAN): David B, Chair – Our next SCAAN meeting will be at Junie's house on Nov. 3rd at 10:00. E-mail SCAAN editor for directions. Our next theme will be "Once a GSR, Always a GSR" We have a box at the back of the room called "A GSR asks"...It's an Ask It Basket. Please put any questions you have as a GSR in it and we will try to answer them in the next couple of SCAANS. Remember, every officer starts out as a GSR, and we welcome your experience in General Service. We had 5 in attendance.

Registration committee: Chair Doug S reports they had 7 in attendance. Discussed the status of District 3's sub-committee investigating the dark District 26...The meetings there, and any GSR's there. They have found 11 groups that should be in District 26 that are currently in District 3. They have identified a possible DCM for this District and will follow up. There are a lot of Spanish speaking groups in that District. Districts 30 and 31 merged and will become District 30. Registration Committee recommended that our Area Registrar process the change. We registered a new group in Montebello and welcomed District 18's registrar to the Committee.

Translation Committee: Fidel M, Chair – reports that they had 6 people. We discussed having more people volunteer for participation in this Committee to help with the translations. We got 4. The translations for the SCAAN is easier because Tom has found a Spanish Translation program and all we need to do is correct it for AA language.

Guidelines & Policies: Chair Greg I – We had 3 in attendance. The DCM for District 2 reported that they are drafting a proposed guidelines and policies for their District. The draft was submitted to the Area Guidelines and Policies Committee for review and comments. We as a Committee discussed the need/desire of developing at the Area level a Guidelines template for use by any of the Districts that may wish to have their own guidelines and policies.

Treatment facilities: Maggie B Chair – This was the single most exciting and well attended Treatment facilities Committee meeting we have had during this panel. We had 9 in attendance. We determined that all Committee members will work towards identifying and reaching out to several of the Treatment facilities in their Districts. In addition, we will canvass our meetings and recruit AA's who will be willing to help newly graduated patients to find a home group and effectively matriculate to their normal lives. The Committee Chair will get literature (directories and soft pamphlets) to be put into "Survivor Kits" which will be distributed at visits to the Treatment Facilities.

Literature: Patti W, Chair – Jim Irwin subbed for Patti as Chair. The new "GSR Tool Kit" was submitted to the Translation Committee. After that we are encouraging comments, and any revisions before we submit it to the Area Website for posting. There will also be a shortened version from 8 to 3 pages which will be distributed. We voted unanimously to ask that the "Order to Attend" pamphlet be posted on the Website.

PI: Tracy C reports that we are working on our current project which is making available to all TV stations in Area 05 the 4 PSA's from GSO in both English and Spanish. Our Committee also recommends that the Area update the Audio Visual equipment. We divided our committee into 3 sub-committees. 1) one to scrub our lists for public use. 2) one to work on our presentations. 3) one to figure and plan our finances for the project.

Grapevine/LaVina: Jim T Chair – We have made up 2 18" X 24" signs for the Grapevine/LaVina display. At the ICYPAA Convention we distributed 117 books "In Our Own Words" and "Lomejor De Bill". We also sold 117 subscriptions of LaVina and the Grapevine there at the convention.

CPC : Chair Erich M – reports that we were present at the California Physical Therapy Assoc. Convention at LAX. We were

**** Website version – not yet approved – to be submitted for approval at the May 2008 Assembly ****

there for 2 days passing out AA literature and answering questions. We also put together a mailing list of people that wanted packets of literature for their offices, etc. We had 7 in attendance at our Committee meeting. We have contact with the nursing school in Glendale, as well as the California Psychological Assoc. to be present at their next convention.

Archives: Chair, Jose F M – We are looking for more material from the groups regarding their group's history and seeking a way to preserve our group's heritage.

Website: Marcus F Chair -

5 attendees: Chair, Webmaster, & 3 others. We discussed the following:

1) Conference Activity Calendar - An excellent information piece that we would like to post on aascaa.org Furthermore, we ask the Delegate and alt.Delegate to provide GSC information (e.g. Questionnaires) to the web committee for posting in a timely manner during the process.

2) Revised Web Guidelines - We reviewed the guidelines and had an excellent discussion on how to revise them based on the conscience of the Assembly (see minutes of last Assembly). We will continue our discussion via email and bring a written proposal to the next Area meeting for approval. The new policy will then "enter" our formal process for revising the SCAA Guidelines & Policies. Send your email address to webchair@aascaa.org if you would like to participate in the discussion.

Chair's Report: Ben H reports that we are looking for an office to rent which we can use to store our Area inventory and also use as a meeting place for Committee meetings, steering committee, etc. Our 2006 tax returns are now ready to be filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Host Districts needed for and voted upon:

Assembly	January 26 – District 3 will host.
Area Committee Meeting	Feb. 24 – Hollywood Combined Dists.
Pre conference Workshop Day 1	March 29, 2008 – District 30 will host.
Pre conference Workshop Day 2	March 30, 2008 – Westside Districts
Area Assembly, Report back	May 18, 2008- District 35
Area Committee Meeting	June 28, 2008 – Westside Districts
Area Assembly	July 27, 2008 – District 4
Area Committee	August 23, 2008 – Spanish Combined Districts (33,35,49,55)
Area Assembly	Oct. 25, 2008 – District 10
Area Committee	Nov.23, 2008 – District 13

2008 Area Budget

Eric K, Finance Chair reported that all the Committee Chairs and all the Officers submitted their budgets for the next year (2008) and then the Finance Committee came up with a proposed budget which was passed at the Area Committee meeting and now needs to be approved at this Assembly. Eric made a motion to approve, Joe McC. seconded. There was much "spirited" discussion both in opposition and in support of the motion. After nearly 2 hours of discussion, Mary T made a motion to table this motion until the next Assembly; The motion failed, there was a second vote and it failed again. Discussion ensued and the actual vote on the motion to approve the proposed 2008 budget ended in the motion failing 13 to approve, and 22 to not approve.

Chairman Ben H asked for announcements for the Good and Welfare of AA...

We closed 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:	\$759.61
Income (Contributions on site):	\$759.61
Net Change shown as – Income / (Expense):	\$ 0