

**The Southern California Area
Of Alcoholics Anonymous
Assembly Minutes
Saturday January 26, 2008
Odyssey Charter School
725 W Altadena Dr
Altadena, CA 91001**

Chairman Ben H. called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Concepts were read in English by Mason L of District 3.
The Twelve Traditions were read in Spanish by Juan of District 55.

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

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. Ben H. seconded the motion. There was discussion regarding the absence of the Website Committee report and the missing collection figures in the Income and Expense report for the Assembly. The motion passed, with 2 opposed. Minority opinion was expressed that the minutes should not be approved until rewritten to be correct. The motion to approve was then tabled until the next Assembly on May 18th.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ben H. noted that today's agenda was available on the handout table and stated that there were three amendments to be added under New Business. ICYPAA and PASYPAA request for a letter of support, unbudgeted expenditure request for funds to go to PRAASA, and a request to form an Ad-Hoc Committee for CEC (Cooperation with the Elderly Community). Gene R. from District 42 then made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Jim I. The motion passed, none opposed.

New GSR Introductions

There were 34 new GSR's who came to the mike and introduced themselves.

Roll Call

Registrar George P. took roll:

80 GSRs/Alt GSRs

27 DCMs/Alt DCMs

3 DCMCs

7 Area Officers

10 Standing Committee Chairs

3 Past Delegates

13 others

Total 120

Voting 100

Districts not represented: 5, 17, 19, 37, 39, 40, 41, 56, and 58.

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 and DCM Roundtables

The DCM's broke into workshop groups, while the GSR's listened to the Delegates presentation.

Presentation on the General Service Conference Agenda process

Gustavo T., our Area 05 Delegate, addressed the Assembly and gave a picture of what was going to be happening at the General Service Conference in New York this year. He explained the process of how our Area presents a selected set of questions taken directly from this year's agenda items and hands them out to the DCM's. The DCM's in turn give them to the GSR's, who can then take them to their groups and present these questions to their respective groups. The "group's conscience" as well as individual AA members can then give their opinions regarding these questions. Gustavo explained that this is an

excellent way for him to get an idea of how our groups within our Area feel regarding the agenda items that he will be discussing and voting upon in New York. Sometimes not all GSR's will get a chance to return these questionnaires on time for me to get them before I have to leave for New York, but I believe that this year we are going to try and get them up on the Area website like we did last year, so they can actually be filled out right on-line. The process of setting the agenda for the Conference takes the entire year. Some items are from previous year's discussions that have been tabled, or are waiting for more Committee information and reports. We have to send requested items to be included in the agenda for this year's Conference by December 31st. There are approximately 134 to 136 members in the General Service Conference. After the Conference we get a final Conference Report which has all items approved, items which became additional considerations (items not approved) and final advisory actions or recommendations. Also, it has the presentations made at the Conference.

Gustavo then asked for questions from the Assembly regarding the Conference process. Some of the questions that were asked: What is the submission process for an item to be added to the agenda? To come from the Area, it must be approved by the Assembly on or before the October Assembly. Then the Delegate or Alternate Delegate must submit a letter to the Conference Chair. The Conference Chair or Coordinator will submit it to the Trustees Agenda Committee who in turn will give it to the appropriate Conference Committee asking them to include this item on the agenda for the next General Service Conference in April. Question: Can you tell us ways for an individual AA member to contact New York regarding this issue. The best way to do this is to go through the process of bringing it to the District first, then the Assembly...but, if you cannot bring it to the District you can bring it directly to the Assembly. The reason why we like to have an individual bring the item first to his GSR, then to the District is so at the district level more GSR's can get involved with the discussion of this item before it is brought to the Assembly. If you were to call New York directly and request an item to be added to the agenda, the Trustees Agenda Committee will send the request back to the Area Delegate from which it came from to be discussed in that Area to see if there is support for the request. Anyone though can contact GSO.

Alternate Delegate Mike P. asked if there were any questions from the GSR's and we had an open microphone session. Question: I'm a new Alternate GSR at my first meeting...What's an Alternate GSR, and what do I do? (From a current GSR): Alternate GSR's do exactly what the GSR does....go to all the Assemblies, and District meetings, and be able to vote if the GSR from your meeting is absent for the vote. Can a GSR visit one of the non-traditional 24 hour groups? Gustavo informed the Assembly that these groups were popular in the Spanish speaking community but were NOT AA groups, and more like detox centers, or treatment facilities. We have nothing against them, and sometimes they use the Alcoholics Anonymous name, but they are not part of AA. As an individual, you of course can go anywhere, but as a GSR you must realize that these type of groups do not always follow the AA Traditions, and therefore we cannot tell them what they can say or do. What can we do if those groups ask us as AA members to participate with them? It's up to each AA member to decide whether he believes he is behaving within the AA Traditions in participating with these non AA groups. How does the GSR know which Committee meeting to attend during the Assembly...Do they need to confer with their group and find out what the groups' area of interest is or what? You have the freedom to choose, but it is suggested that if you are currently working with a committee at the District level, you can better serve your District Committee by getting feedback from the Area's other GSR's by getting involved with the same Committee at the Area level. Again though, you can choose whatever Committee you would like.

Presentation on 2008 Budget

Eric K., Finance Chair, passed out and presented the *suggested* 2008 Area 05 budget. We will vote to approve or not to approve this budget after lunch. What is here is the current draft of the 2008 suggested budget and where is a brief explanation of the history of how it came about. In the last quarter of 2007 we asked all the Committee Chairs and Area officers to submit individual budgets. The 1st draft had a total suggested budget of about \$71,000.00. The Finance Committee then took a look at it and had to decide whether it was reasonable or not to ask the Assembly to pass this budget. The Committee decided it was and submitted it to the Assembly in October of 2007. This budget was not approved, so we took it back to the Finance Committee and we cut it to \$53,199.00. Please look at the numbers on the previous years' expense and income and please also note that our 2007 final checking account balance is \$23,915.46. Our current guidelines set our lower cash limit at \$5,000.00, so I would like to point out that our Area financial condition is what the Finance Committee considers healthy.

Lunch

We broke for lunch at 12:00 and reconvened at 1:00.

New Business

2008 Budget

Eric K. made a motion to approve the 2008 suggested budget totaling \$53,199.00. Jim I. seconded. Discussion ensued. The vote was taken: 77 approved, 2 opposed. There was no minority opinion. The motion passed.

Financial Reports

Gordy H., Accounts Treasurer introduced the final 2007 SCAA financial report. This included the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter reports. He stated that they were to be presented at the Area Committee Meeting in February for approval before being brought back to the Assembly in May for final approval. Question to Gordy: Is the \$23,000.00 in our checking account in an interest bearing account? Answer: No. Past Delegate Jim I. stated that the Area used to, but the bank said that they would charge us a service charge for the account and at that time there wasn't as much money in the account to warrant changing to an interest bearing account.

Martha S., Contribution Treasurer introduced the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarter contribution reports and wanted to thank Mary T. And Jim I., Past Delegates for coming over to my house and helping me get the computer and printer to work. We couldn't send out receipts for your contribution on time because of this problem, but now everything works great and the receipts are being mailed. Please be sure to make your checks out to SCAA. These Contribution reports will also go to the ACM for approval.

Added to Agenda

Kelly from Tri County Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (TRICYPAA) came to the mike and stated that they represent the young people in AA from parts of San Gabriel Valley, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County. She requested a letter of support from our Area 05 for TRICYPAA hosting the ACYPAA (All California Young People in AA) Convention in 2009.

Rachael from PASYPAA (Pasadena Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) also requested a letter of support for the ACYPAA Convention in 2009. We are a young people's Service Committee aimed at outreaching young people in our area and beyond to bring to their attention that young people do recover in AA.

Gordy made a motion to provide separate letters for each, Martha seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ben H made an unbudgeted expenditure request on behalf of 5 Area officers, and 2 Committee Chairs, Patti (Literature), and Maria (Audio/Visual), for a total of \$7,000.00 to attend PRAASA. Eric K. stated that the money was available, and made a motion to approve the request. There was much discussion. Jose F.M. (Archives Chair) asked if he could be included in this motion. Eric K. amended his motion to \$8,000.00. Further discussion ensued. David W. asked Eric K. to amend his motion to include both the CPC Chair and the PI Chair. Erik K. agreed and amended his motion to \$10,000.00. Mason L. then seconded the motion, and the question was called. The vote was 37 to approve, and 28 not to approve. The motion failed. Minority opinion was voiced. After more discussion, 4 wanted to change their vote from the prevailing side. There was vote to reconsider the motion and it passed with a simple majority of 42 yes to 19 no in favor of reconsidering the motion. More discussion where an amendment to the motion was made by Eric K. to change the total \$'s back to \$5,000.00 for 8 people...5 Officers and 3 Committee Chairs. The question was called...51 voted to approve, 13 not to approve. The motion for \$5,000.00 for 8 people passed.

Carol P. made a presentation on CEC (Cooperation with the Elderly Community) discussing what was currently being done in our Area regarding our progress with working with our elders, and the problems associated with alcoholism within our elderly community. She had found that District 3 in our own Area 05 already had a CEC Committee that was actively working, and that there was a few Senior groups that had been around for over 25 years. Carol said that at PRAASA last year she found that the CEC roundtables were quite informative and stated how in our Area there is a lot of work to be done and also that she had already found 6 other people that were interested in working with the CEC Committee at the District level. The Westside Combined Districts voted to approve the CEC Committee, and she wants an Ad-Hoc Committee to be approved by the Area for Area 05. Seven people have expressed interest in working in the Ad-Hoc Committee at the Area level.

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. Here we go with our second year panel. The General Service Conference will be April 27th through May 3rd. The Theme for this years' Conference will be: "Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self Support". We are going to make up some questionnaires like the ones we've done in the past and will pass these questionnaires out at the ACM in February as well as Mike P. and I passing them out as we visit all the Districts to make sure that everyone has one. I hope to see you all at the Pre-Conference workshops on March 27th and 28th and also to see all you DCM's at the 4 Area DCM Sharing session Feb.23rd in North Hollywood. From The Public Information Committee: Irene K reported that the Committee reviewed and accepted with minor changes, the annual Anonymity Letter to the Media, which will be mailed in February or March 2008. The Committee also suggested that the mailing be done via E-mail only. One hundred people have registered on the GSO website where the AA video for young people can be downloaded; but as of October 25, 2007 there had been no videos submitted. The deadline was supposed to be November 30, 2007, but the PI desk has been accepting submissions after that date. In between events and

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regular visits to your Districts, I am honored to attend your groups or Districts where I will share my story or talk about a specific topic. The Spanish language Third Edition of the Big Book will be out in early February, and La Vina has a new editor. We will know who it is very soon. Thank you, Gustavo T.

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

We closed with the Responsibility Statement in both Spanish and English at 4:20 PM.

Language Interpreters were Patricia and Edgar.

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

Refreshments and Lunch – Income and Expense

Food Expense:	\$875.00
Income (Contributions on site):	\$876.68
Net Change shown as – Income / (Expense):	+ \$ 1.68

(Here are the Standing Committee Reports which were submitted in writing to the Secretary and which there was no time for presentation during the Assembly)

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter (SCAAN): David B, Chair – Our next SCAAN meeting will be March 29th at 10:00. Present were David B., Chair, Junie, Amelia, Lauren, secretary, and Fidel M. We had 2 new members: Bobi T. and Dave. Due to a missed deadline the Spanish translation is unintelligible. The Committee has decided to enforce a deadline of 2 weeks before printing or articles will not be published. Deadline will be published in next SCAAN. Due to lack of submissions, the Committee has decided to reduce the amount of pages printed to control waste....if needed. We continue to ask for content and contributions from all Districts with a deadline of May 1st for the next issue. We also need submissions from each Committee Chair.

Registration committee: Chair Doug S reports they had 4 people in attendance. Our District 3 DCM has performed an exhaustive analysis of meetings in District 3 from various meeting lists, LA County meeting directory, the Registration database from both New York and Area 05 etc. The analysis produced a list of potential District 26 groups. District 26 is "dark" right now, though ten of those meetings are currently attending District 3 monthly meetings. Once District 3 completes the analysis, they would like to work with the Area Registrar and the Registration Committee to start up District 26, and find a potential DCM. Then move all those groups identified from District 3 to 26.

Translation Committee: Fidel M, Chair – We discussed having more people volunteer for participation in this Committee to help with the translations. We need the Minutes, and all articles to be translated, on time, because we cannot rely on the translation program from the web now in use. We will go back to the old way of manual "human" translation.

Guidelines & Polices: Chair Greg I – We had 6 in attendance. We discussed the progress of the "Model Guidelines and Policies for Districts". This discussion to be continued at our next Assembly. We briefly discussed developing a model guidelines for District inventories and decided that this is outside the scope of our Committee. We will be getting a draft of the Guideline changes requested the Website Committee for evaluation in the near future.

Treatment facilities: Steve B Chair – We had 8 in attendance. Albert from District 13 reported that he had contacted some facilities and is ready to go forward with a workshop on bridging the gap which will concentrate on an exit strategy for patients upon discharge and a temporary contact. The Westside Districts are still doing their bridging the gap work but are finding that they are having difficulty with the women's facilities due to the bureaucracy and trust issues. They are now trying to build trust with the administrators. Joe from District 3 talked about implementing a temporary contact program where phone numbers are given out to people about to get out of a facility and matched along age and gender types. We are working on 3 facilities in the Pasadena area and 1 in Burbank. We have \$250.00 budgeted for literature and will ask the Area for that today.

Literature: Patti W, Chair – We discussed revising the Sponsorship pamphlet –*Questions and Answers on Sponsorship*. We talked about adding: A Sponsors roll is to take you through the 12 steps. We also talked about what a Sponsor is and is not. We had 11 members in attendance contributing to our discussion, and felt that this was an important issue. As newcomers we had

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so many questions, so we are asking any AA members to submit any questions, ideas, and comments or concerns to the literature chair Patti. We will compile and discuss all at the next Assembly. Our goal is to submit this concern by year end to GSO with the hope that it might be on next year's agenda at the Conference.

PI: Tracy C reports that we spent most of our time reviewing and the approving our new "phone script" for calling local TV stations who were not sent AA's new PSA "A Force of Nature". We will now do a test and have New York PI Committee review it for consideration as something they can pass on to other Areas who are looking ideas. We got 8 volunteers to help with the phone calls. We had 1 request from GSO to follow up on a request from a local radio station KRIN. I ordered a radio PSA CD and will deliver it when it arrives.

CPC : Chair Erich M – (Don Comstock sitting in for Erich) reports that we have an event March 31 to April 5 at the LAX Hilton: The National Association of Black Social Workers Convention. We need volunteers for 40 hours manning the AA booth. We will share the time with Area 43. Contact Erich Martini. We are also starting to contact Nursing schools in our Area. Stan H. was approved as the alternate CPC chair.

Website Committee: Marcus F Chair: We had 7 people in attendance. We unanimously approved the following proposed change to the Area Guidelines based on input from the Area Assembly and Area Committees.

Current Guidelines: Section VM. The website Committee develops and maintains the Area's Internet Website to inform interested parties of Area information, upcoming Area meetings and events.

Proposed Guidelines: Section VM. The Website Committee manages the Area's internet website: www.aascaa.org. A Webmaster, selected or hired by the Area Chair with the approval of the officers, develops and maintains the website at the direction of the website Chair with input from the website Committee. The primary purpose of the website is to facilitate communication within SCAA and between SCAA and AA members on AA General Service related matters. The website is published in both English and Spanish.

This proposed change will be sent to the Guidelines and Translation Committees and eventually to the Assembly and Area Committee for approval.

Audio/Visual Maria O Chair: Erin O. Alt. Chair reports that today we worked with the P I Committee regarding the script that will be used for calls made to various TV stations. We gained another contact in District 3 and will show an AA film on the first Thursday in February.

Archives: Chair, Jose F M – We had five archive coordinators at our meeting. We discussed how to write group histories for the archives. Jane, from district 36 gave us a copy of some examples. We also talked about translating this information. We also discussed the area coordinator's idea on where to keep the area archives - more information on this will be forthcoming.