

**The Southern California Area  
Of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Assembly Minutes  
Sunday May 18, 2008  
Rosemead City Park  
3936 Muscatel Ave  
Rosemead, CA 91720**

Chairman Ben H welcomed all to listen to Area 05, Panel 57 Delegate, Gustavo T's report starting at 9:00. AM.

**Delegate's Report back from the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, April 27 – May 3, 2008.**

*Gustavo T. gave his report in two sections; first, his experience during the week of the Conference, and second, the Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations.*

Hello, my name is Gustavo, I am an alcoholic and have the privilege to serve as Delegate for Panel 57, Area 05 southern California. With the greatest sense of responsibility, privilege, and confidence in my Higher Power, as I understand Him, and with the theme "Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-support", I attended the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference in New York from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3, 2008. It is a privilege because you have given me the position of a trusted servant and given me the honor of representing the groups of Area 05. I have the responsibility to participate and to decide what is better for AA as a whole not only at the level of the Public Information Committee which is where I was assigned, but at the level of the Conference along with the rest of the 134 voting members of the Conference. We had 2 observers from GSO in Mexico; Trustees Elfido Q. and Jose Trinidad R., and 2 from Great Britain; Louise F., General Manager of GSO England, and Anne N. General Secretary from York, England.

One of the things that some do not know is that the theme, "Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-support", is used in presentations and meetings in the weeks prior to the Conference to establish ongoing discussions about the topics that will be discussed at the Conference. PRAASA, our Area 05 Pre-Conference Assembly/Workshop are some events that are for this purpose. This year's theme is especially important because it establishes a relationship between our participation and communication in our groups and the Unity brought about by our self-supporting. Without a permanent, ongoing, communication at all levels of service, our motivation for action in the Conference process becomes much more difficult. It implies the moral commitment of all the trusted servants of our Area to motivate through this participation, and communication, the unity and spirit of the Seventh Tradition. The Seventh Tradition does not indicate in any way the amount which we contribute, but to the fact of participating by contributing whatever the amount may be.

Thursday, April 24: I arrived in New York at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Times Square at around 4:00. We were assigned a room on the 33<sup>rd</sup>. floor and looked for a place to eat with reasonable prices! The GSO Conference is also held in this hotel.

Friday, April 25: In the company of Joe B., Delegate of Mid-Southern California Area 09, and Shannon B., Delegate of California Northern Coastal Area 06, we took the subway to the General Service Office to attend the 1728 meeting of AA held every Friday at 11:00 AM. This is an open AA meeting attended by GSO staff, Trustees, and whoever. Usually some of the Delegates who arrive early also attend. The Speaker was Joan R, Delegate Panel 58 from Area 48, New York, and after her participation the moderator, Robin B, asked all the attendees to share. I took advantage of this visit to GSO to meet the new editor of La Vina, Jorge E. He seems very enthusiastic. I gave him a letter package containing many requests from the Spanish Speaking groups requesting that La Vina bring back the CD "Sounds of Sobriety", and made him aware of my support of the request.

Saturday April 26: At 10:30 I had a presentation to do before the subcommittee on site selection for the 2020 International Convention. There were Trustees, delegates from the Conference Committee, and GSO staff in attendance as well. Shanna C, representative from the city of Los Angeles was there to do her presentation together with myself. I had two minutes to give my presentation and Shanna had ten. There were about 20 to 25 people in attendance and Shanna used a projector with slides to show availability of hotels, transportation, places of recreation, meeting places, and talked about the weather as well as the modernization of the downtown area. She was very enthusiastic and professional.

That evening I got sick and for three days I could not eat solid food, but thanks to my Higher Power I was able to participate and fulfill my responsibilities without any problem.

Sunday April 27: We registered at 11:00 AM and then were served lunch by Region at which time we had our orientation of the

work to be done in our respective Committees. At 1:15 we were welcomed to the opening meeting by Leonard B. Gregg M, General Manager of GSO, read the list of the 93 Delegates, trustees, and GSO personnel that were eligible to vote. Frances J who is Chair of the Delegates this year welcomed us, and Chuck B, Class B Trustee, gave the key-note speech. From 2:45 to 4:45 we met with our Committees which in my case was the Committee on Public Information. This first meeting with the Trustees is designed for us Delegates to listen to the Trustees on what work they had been doing this year on the Public Information Committee, and to answer questions about what was on the agenda for us this year. We seemed to be focused a lot, and with a lot of questions regarding the video for young people. A lot of the questions were about why the amount of submissions is so low. At this time there had been only 4 proposals of videos submitted that fulfill the specifications detailed in the guidelines for video submission. Some of the reasons that came up were that some believed that the guidelines for video production were too complex. Some had to do with the legal aspect. We had the opportunity to see 2 of the videos...one from New York and one from Pennsylvania. *Since this time, new guidelines were introduced and are now in use.* At 6:30 we had our dinner session with speakers; 2 Delegates, Grapevine Director Andy T, Mary D GSO staff, and John S, a Trustee also spoke.

Monday April 28: From 9:00 to 12:00 we had our Committee meeting. We were given the new guidelines and policies for the AA website which should be ready by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. A question arose regarding the fact that since we have literature on the website, does that affect literature sales? The answer came back as no, not really. Another question was what was the policy for putting literature on the AA website in the 3 official languages of the Conference. Chris C said it depends on expressed necessity, and financial availability, then can be put on the website in all three languages. The pamphlet "Too Young" has not been available in Spanish, but now will be in 3 to 4 weeks. Al B, a representative from Banyan Communications, one of the companies that produces and distributes the PSA's (Public Service Announcements) was present and gave us an explanation of how these DVD's are produced and the material left over which could be used for future PSA's. The oldest PSA is "We know how it is like". The one with the most air time on TV is "Testimonials". The TV stations are given all 4 PSA's and it is up to them which ones they will air. At 1:15 the Delegates from the Southwest Region (the new Delegates panel 58) gave their Area highlights. At 2:30 Leonard B gave his report which paid tribute to Bob P who served as General Manager from 1975 to 1984. 5 new Trustees were welcomed, 2 class B, and also an at large Trustee from Canada Jo-Anne L. General Manager Gregg M will retire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Ad-Hoc Committee which is working on the inventory of the three Corporations has met 4 times since it was formed and gave a summary of the discussions, and came up with questions and answers which will appear on the Policies and Admissions Committee report in 2009. GSO will be hosting the World Services Conference in October with the theme "Service; Gratitude in Action". Howard L Coordinator of AAWS Corporation (AA World Services) gave his report which among other things informed us that there were 941 new groups that had registered with GSO. Literature sales had an increase of 6% more than projected, and Contributions had an increase of 5.3% more than projected. The Big Book was translated into the following languages: Hebrew, Ethiopian, and Greek. The Conference Charter translated into Mongol, and Polish. An edited and condensed version of the Final Conference Report will be put on the GSO Website. At the end of 2007, GSO had 81 full time, and 1 part time student as employees. The Big Book has been translated into 59 languages....The AA pamphlets into 84 languages and dialects. At 3:15 Ray M, Grapevine Corporation Chair gave his report and stated that the average monthly circulation of the Grapevine magazine had increased 2.14%. The audio version increase by 3.24% and la Vina's circulation increased by 7.4%. Ray stated that the goal was to have 100 new subscriptions per Area by the end of this year.

Tuesday April 29: From 9:00 till noon We met with our Committees and our Public Information Committee did not finish covering our agenda so we had to meet twice more before Friday so we could finish. At 1:15 The Eastern Canada and Mid-west Regions gave their highlights. At 1:45 we had a presentation on Communication and Participation followed by a sharing session "What's on Your Mind?" monitored by Frances J., Chair. From 3:15 to 5:00 we gathered in groups of 10 and with 1 GSO staff member we visited GSO. At 7:00 we had a Delegates only dinner and meeting. At this meeting the Delegates Chairman for next year is elected. Joe B Delegate from Area 09 was chosen from the hat!

Wednesday April 30: At 9:00 AM we had a workshop with this year's subject " Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever". This was a very special experience for me because I had the privilege of moderating one of these workshops. Several Trustees as well as Delegates and GSO staff attended. After the workshops, I had the opportunity to speak with the executive Editor of the Grapevine, Robin B regarding the request from the Spanish Speaking groups to bring back, or reproduce the CD in Spanish "Sounds of Sobriety". She gave me good news and said it is not a matter of IF it will be done, but WHEN it can be done. It is already on the schedule to be done. At 12:00, at lunch we met with the Pacific Region Delegates and elected the Areas to host future events. In 2012 PRAASA will be hosted by West Washington Area 72 in Bellevue WA. The Marriott Warner Center in Woodland Hills California, Area 93, was elected to host the Additional Forum which will be held in 2011. (The Additional Forum is like a Regional forum....but not!) From 1:15 to 3:00 Trustees from the Mid-West, and West Canada regions were elected. Our Regional Trustee Madeline P gave a presentation on The Privilege to Pass it on from the topic Unity, Communication and Participation. Starting at 7:45 The Committees gave their reports. 1<sup>st</sup> was Polices/Admissions which could not finish their report

because it had to meet again to review one of the recommendations.

Thursday May 1: From 9:00 till noon the Committee reports continued. The Public Information Committee started to give it's report a little before noon. It took us more than 6 hours of "Loving Discussion" to approve or disapprove the agenda items for the report from this Committee. We didn't finish until Friday. Except for a half hour discussion on the topic "Self-Support" from 1:15 to 1:45, the Committees gave their reports until 10:00 PM.

Friday May 2: From 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM The Committees continued to give their reports. All were done by 8:00 PM but there were still 15 floor motions which had to be discussed. The last floor action was voted upon at 12:45 AM Saturday morning/night most likely due to fatigue. Because of this lengthy process, the chair of the Conference floor alternated between Gregg M and Leonard B. Gregg M finally declared the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference officially over. Before closing Ray M, Chair of the Grapevine asked Gregg M to share some of his experiences in the last 10 years as General Manager since this would be his last Conference. At around 1:00 AM Gregg M asked Julie S from Utah, Claude M from Quebec and myself (Gustavo T) from California to join him in closing the meeting with the Serenity Prayer in English, French, and Spanish respectively.

Saturday May 3: From 9:00 to 10:00 was the last meeting where the outgoing Trustees could say their goodbyes. Vince K, Class A Financial Trustee, Tom K Class B Trustee, and Chuck B Class B Trustee all said it was time to rotate out and go home to their individual home groups. I decided to visit some of the AA historic sites. The Calvary Church where the Oxford groups held their meetings, and Bill showed up drunk, also the Mission where Ebby was taken. We also visited 182 Clinton St., the residence of Bill and Lois in the early 1930's.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Area 05 Delegate, Gustavo T.

Gustavo then went over some selected Conference Advisory Actions and some of the Additional Considerations. For these results please see the hand outs so titled and dated April 2008, May 2008, and the 2008 Final Conference Report. You can also go to the GSO Website and type in the search box: 58<sup>th</sup> General Service conference. This will bring up the screen with 1 result, this being BOX 459 - News and Notes from GSO. This issue, June/July 2008 - The General service Conference, will have the results there.

A couple of the questions asked Gustavo from the floor were: What happened to the idea of bringing back the pamphlet "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic". The Literature Committee considered the request and took no action. It was even brought up as a floor action but didn't pass. Under Finance, item #6. It was recommended that the Trustee's Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding GSO services to the Fellowship (GSO functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of AA members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2008 Conference committee on Finance. The question was asked why was the last part of this statement originally on the Finance Committee Agenda left out. This statement being: That funding of GSO Services to the Fellowship be solely by the voluntary contributions of AA members and AA groups, that profits from literature sales will no longer be used to fund our General service office. The committee removed this last sentence because they wanted a more general question to be passed around and not get into huge debate regarding literature and what the money should be used for. The question, the Committee thought should generate discussion on being fully self-supportive through contributions and how to accomplish these ends.

### Lunch

*We broke for lunch at 12:10 and reconvened at 1:00.*

Chairman Ben H. called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

The Twelve Concepts were read in English by Shirley of District 4.

The Twelve Traditions were read in Spanish by Ricardo of District 49.

A.A. birthdays for the months of April and May were recognized and applauded.

### Roll Call

Registrar George P. took roll:

69 GSRs/Alt GSRs

22 DCMs/Alt DCMs

3DCMCs  
5 Area Officers  
7 Standing Committee Chairs  
4 Past Delegates  
9 others  
Total 119  
Voting 105  
Districts not represented: 6, 8, 17, 19, 37, 38, 39, 41, 56, and 58.

### **Approval of the Assembly Minutes of October 27, 2007 and January 26, 2008**

Secretary Tom B. noted that the Minutes of the October 27, 2007 Assembly that were tabled for approval pending the addition of the missing Website Committee report and the Income and Expense report were distributed and put on the hand out table as well as the website. Bill J moved to approve, while Gene District 14 seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Tom B. then introduced the January 26, 2008 Assembly minutes and noted that they were printed in the SCAAN and on the handout table as well. Chairman Ben H asked for a motion to approve. Bill J so moved and Gene seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Ben H. noted that today's agenda was available on the handout table and asked for any amendments. Past Delegate Mary T. requested that she be able to do a brief PRAASA report. Also Past Delegate Juan M wanted to introduce a possible District split. Jim T, Grapevine chair, wanted to add an unbudgeted expenditure request. Greg I. Guidelines and Policies Chair moved to approve the Agenda, Jim W. Past Delegate, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Reports**

Gordy H Accounts Treasurer, gave a brief explanation of what each of the Treasures does. The Contribution Treasurer, Martha S, was not able to be here today but I wanted to introduce both the 1st quarter Contributions report and the 1st quarter SCAA financial report. We had for the 1st quarter group contributions of \$12,557.11...almost \$2,400.00 greater in contributions over last year. As an Area we are financially healthy.

### **Committee Meetings & New GSR Orientation**

We broke into the new GSR orientation and committee meetings at 1:40 P.M. We reconvened at 2:30.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**SCAAN** Amelia, SCAAN treasurer thanked everybody for their submissions. We still need more articles for our next issue. Our next deadline is July 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be having our next SCAAN meeting June 8<sup>th</sup> at my house in Hollywood.... Please see me for directions. A special thanks goes out to the Spanish Speaking District 49 for their \$50.00 vote of confidence because they like what we have done. We will be submitting this donation to the Area.

**Finance Committee** chair Eric K reported that we had 4 topics for discussion: 1<sup>st</sup> was the unbudgeted expenditure request by Jim T. Grapevine Chair. We asked him to revise his request for the amount over \$228.00 which is already in his Committee budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> we discussed our Financial Guidelines and Policies which will be submitted for approval and will take a long time. Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> we will be discussing these Guidelines and Policies for Finance. 3<sup>rd</sup> we discussed our Area inventory and Storage. We want to dispose of unusable items in our inventory and how we go about getting approval for that. We will present these items at the Area Committee meeting for disposal approval.. 4<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the Finance Committee's responsibilities with the treasury of PRAASA that we host in 2010.

**Literature Committee** chair stand-in Jim I reported that Patti had car trouble and that's why she couldn't be there. In attendance we had 4 people in attendance. We discussed the possibilities of putting most of the Assembly hand outs on the Area Website with instructions for the GSR's to print out the items and bring them to the Assemblies. We also discussed the Sponsorship Booklet/change in the pamphlet, which Patti has spearheaded but we were not sure where that project stands right now.

**CPC Committee** alternate Chair Stan H. reported that we had 5 in attendance. We had participated in the National Association of Black Social Workers Convention at the LAX Hilton on April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>. As Alternate Chair, I propose a separate Area 05 E-mail address so that the continuity can continue if the Chair is not available. We also thought that a CPC workshop that addressed the dos and don'ts of approaching the Professionals was a good thing to have.

**Treatment Facilities** chair Steve B reported that we had 3 in attendance. District 3 is doing Treatment Facility work on a regular basis. They just acquired 100 “newcomer packets” which include a San Gabriel Valley and L.A. directory, pamphlets on what is a Sponsor etc. We’re waiting on the new directories due out in a week or so. We are working on bringing a workshop/panel into Mariposa House and Las Encinas hospital/treatment facility. We also have 2 members working on getting into Casa De Las Amigas. We need to get about 5 more Treatment Facilities workbooks, and are asking our treatment facilities committee members to see if they can stimulate interest in their home groups about recruiting members to work with us in these facilities.

**Public Information Committee** report was submitted by Laura District 13. She stated that Chad, from District 7 filled in for the Committee Chair Tracy who was absent. GSO had E-mailed Tracy with a list of TV stations they had sent PSA’s to. The Committee has contacted some of the TV stations not on the list and had actually delivered 4 and mailed 1 which included the Spanish speaking station Telemundo. GSO helped us make an E-mail template we can use to contact stations. Other groups have also shown interest in how we’ve broken through. A group in Illinois was interested in how we are doing this because they have had no luck so far. We now want to explore the radio stations with our PSA outreach., and go through GSO for help there.

**Translation Committee** chair Fidel medina reported that they had 3 members in attendance. We were able to get all the material translated due to the fact that our Committee received all the articles and minutes by the deadline. We also are discussing the possibility of accepting participation of nonalcoholic persons to assist as volunteers for the translation of documents.

**Registration Committee** Registrar George P sat in for Doug the Committee Chair. We met with the District Registrar from District 3 and reviewed the registration procedures. We discussed the possibilities of a district registrar sending in the new GSR forms directly to GSO so they would get their New GSR kits within a week instead of months.

**Grapevine/La Vina Committee** chair Jim T reported they had 4 people in attendance. We put together a draft of a sign out sheet where anyone could “borrow the CD’s” listen to them, then return them so they could be signed out by someone else later. There will be a Grapevine workshop at Olympic High School in Santa Monica from 12:00 to 2:00 on July 13, 2008.

**Website Committee** chair Marcus F reported that the committee had received and reviewed the new “AA Guidelines – Internet” (publication # MG-18) from GSO, and revised section X of our SCAA Website Guidelines to be consistent with the new GSO guidelines. The proposed new wording for section V–M of our SCAA guidelines was published in the SCAAN in the January 26, 2008 minutes and all were presented to the Guidelines and Policies Committee for the process of final writing and approval of the changes.

**Ad-Hoc Committee CEC (Cooperation with the Elderly)** chair Carole P reported that the goal of the committee is to attract older adults who still suffer from alcoholism. We have created a power point presentation which we were able to present at an Area 93 District 7 meeting on May 10, 2008. This was made possible through Mike, DCM for that District who is a contact made at PRAASA of this year. We are asking our Area 05 DCM’s to make time, about 15 to 30 minutes during their District meeting for the opportunity to show this presentation and create interest in this Committee work. We are also asking our Central Offices/Intergroups to use designations in their directories such as “Senior Friendly” or “Seniors in Sobriety” to better identify these types of groups. We are asking you GSR’s to make your groups or any groups that you attend aware of the CEC Committee and distribute our Area 05 Senior meeting flyer.

**Archives Committee** chair Jose reported that we had 5 in attendance. One of the topics we discussed was asking our Districts to get some of the old-timers from our groups to write down stories or histories about their home group. We need to be able to gather all of our Area Archives into a new storage place with the display at a convenient location so that they can be brought out to various events like our Area Assemblies. We reviewed the GSO publication “Markings – Your Archives Interchange” Spring 2008 edition and talked about the front page article regarding copyright laws and what can be copied or used.

**Guidelines and Policies Committee** Chair Greg I reported that they had 3 persons in attendance. I would like to thank Marcus for giving us something to do! He gave us 2 documents or proposals for the Website one of which will only require some fine tuning. The second will require more work, and we will report back to you at the next ACM.

**Audio/Visual Committee** alternate chair Erin O reported that Maria O. was visiting Greece for the International Convention and currently showing our AA films there. This Convention is on the Island of Hydra and she is volunteering her time, at her expense, to show any and all of the AA Conference approved movies there. She also happens to be speaking at the Convention as well.

Wish her well!

**New GSR Orientation** Mike P Alternate Delegate reported that they had about 35 people in attendance, most of whom were new GSR's. Without going into detail we discussed how General Service unites and supports AA worldwide. One of the details that was left out was the arguing! Please don't let it scare you away. Watch the arguers through the day...you are sometimes watching best friends arguing back and forth and that is something so beautiful that I've never seen anywhere else!

#### **PRAASA 2010 Report**

Mary T. PRAASA 2010 Chair reported that the main reason for being at the post PRAASA meeting in Alaska was just to see how big it is, not how complex it is. The timeline for the PRAASA Committee is that after our Election Assembly in October we will sit down and figure out who is going to do what. The main thing is now that we have had to deal with the PRAASA hotel and make three deposits before the event. Remember that PRAASA itself is funded entirely by the people that attend...there is no 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition money used for this purpose. The way we get the money is that we receive money from the past PRAASA as seed money. Last year we had to borrow some money from our Area 05 to use as a deposit for the hotel which was paid back. This year our PRAASA Treasurer Mike P received our seed money and deposited the check and it happened to be more than enough to cover this year's deposit for the hotel as well as some of the future expenditures. At the next Assembly I will have a written time-table as to what has happened so far and what will need to happen in the next year and a half. Mark your Calendars!

**Proposal for new District;** Juan DCM District 35 proposed to the Assembly that Spanish speaking District 35 be divided into 2 separate Districts. Juan says he will present a list of groups to be included in the proposed new District. We have the support of our past Delegate Juan M for this change.

#### **GSR and DCM Roundtables**

The DCM's broke into a one large roundtable moderated by Past Delegate Mary T. The GSR's broke into a large question/answer group moderated by Alternate Delegate Mike P.

**Unbudgeted Expenditure Request** Jim T Grapevine chair made a motion to approve a request for \$697.59. The motion was seconded and followed by discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

After Good and Welfare, we closed with the Responsibility Statement in Spanish and English at 4:15.

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:	\$850.00
Income (Contributions on site):	\$873.00
Net Change shown as – Income / (Expense):	+ \$ 23.00