

# SCAAN

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

Panel 57, Issue 6  
Spring 2008

## DELEGATE'S REPORT

This is the presentation given in New York on April 26, 2008 as part of our bid for the International Convention 2020.

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

First thank you for this opportunity and thank you for my sobriety.

Area 05 has 33 districts: 29 English speaking and 4 Spanish speaking. Los Angeles city by itself is culturally diverse and according to our research, there are more than 100 languages spoken: English, Chinese, Korean, Armenian, Ethiopian, Persian, Spanish, etc.

We are one of four areas in Southern California with 1 spacing 175 groups and more than 40,000 members. The other three areas have combined 105,358 members, this without counting 79,218 from Northern California.

I may have to say that we have the support of our neighboring areas who have given letters of support.

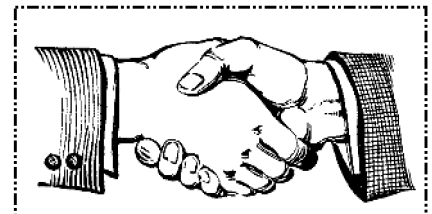
As far as A.A. events such as Conventions, Conferences, Workshops and other events, our districts and groups organize different gatherings or events every year, such as Conferences, General Service Foros, workshops, public meetings, Third Legacy Meetings, Love and Service Seminar etc.

The last two International Conventions in Southern California were held in Long Beach in 1963 and San Diego in 1995. In

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE; To inform SCA members, and the AA fellowship at large, of selected items from GSO, the Area, and items of general interest from the Districts.

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
[www.aascaa.org](http://www.aascaa.org)  
**SPANISH SPEAKING**  
[www.alcoholicsanonomosaa.com](http://www.alcoholicsanonomosaa.com)

particular the one in San Diego I believe has been one with many registered participants. We are sure In Los Angeles the turnout will be even bigger.

The most recent International event was the 49 International Conference of Young People in AA. To this event approximately 4,000 A.A.'s from different countries attended. The Young People event was held at the Buena Ventura Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Geographically, Area 05 goes from west to east from Malibu to Ontario City, from north to south from the Hollywood Mountains to Rosecrans Avenue. We may be one of the smallest areas in the USA and Canada, but for sure one of the most populated, active and willing to volunteer. if we are granted the honor of hosting the International Convention for 2020.

The other interesting aspect of attraction for us being host of one great event such as the International Convention should be the fact that Mexico it is only at a two hours' drive. That gives us a very large population not only from Mexico, but Central America and South America. Thus, we are in a very good position to provide any amount of volunteers that may be need if we are selected as hosting city for 2020. Our population is multicultural and able to host visitors from all over the world. Our fellowship is loving, enthusiastic and available for the privilege of helping GSO with the commitment of putting together this event

We hope to have the opportunity to celebrate sobriety and to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity,

Gustavo T

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

June 1, 2008	Second Annual "Eatin' Meetin' Extravaganza"
June 28, 2008	Area Committee Meeting. Hosts: Combined Westside Districts
Julio 27, 2008	Assembleas del Area Host Dist.4
Aug. 1-3' 2008	16th Annual Foothill Roundup LaCanada-Flintridge
Aug. 23, 2008	Area Committee Meeting. Hosts: Combined Spanish Districts



**AUDIO VISUAL COMMITTEE***Films & Videos**Available for showing at your Meeting:*

1. **“Young People in AA”** 16mm film or video.....**30 minutes** 4 Young People in AA describe what it was like, what happened, and what it's like today.
  2. **“It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell”** 16mm film or video.... **17 minutes.** 4 Young AA's in prison as a result of their drinking, tell their stories.
  3. **“Hope Alcoholics Anonymous”** 16mm film or video.. **15 minutes.** Explains the principles of AA; Primary Purpose, Sponsorship, Home Groups, The Steps, the Traditions, basic recovery tools, and what AA is and isn't.
  4. **“Bills Own Story”** 16mm film or video ..... **60 minutes** Cofounder Bill W. tells of his drinking and recovery. His wife Lois W. tells why she founded Alanon (for AA internal use only).
  5. **“Bill Wilson Discusses the 12 Traditions”** 16mm film or video **60 minutes.** Co-founder Bill W. tells how the principles safeguarding AA unity developed (for AA internal use only).
  6. **“AA: Rap With Us”** video only . . **17 minutes** Rap music and lyrics bridge the contemporary stories of four young people in AA.
  7. **“AA: An Inside View”** video only. **28 minutes** A close-up look at meetings and recovery.
  8. **Service Videos:**  
**“Your General service Office, The Grapevine and The General Service Structure”**  
 ...**21 minutes**
- “Carrying The Message Behind These Walls”.. .....15 minutes.**
- “Circles of Love & Service”  
**16 minutes**
- “Markings on the Journey”**  
**36 minutes**
- “Your GSO Today”** (older version)  
 ...**28 minutes**

**Contact: Maria O. ( 626) 962-0203, or**  
 Alternate Chair:  
 Erin O.  
 (626) 862-2872

**FREE**

District 10 to host 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Eatin' Meetin' Extravaganza!

Area 5 District 10 will be hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Eatin' Meetin' Extravaganza on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Subud building located at 5828 Wilshire Blvd in the Miracle Mile section of Los Angeles.

Last year over 125 people showed up to attend the 1st Annual Eatin' Meetin' Event. Fried chicken and all the trimmings plus many homemade desserts made the meaning of an Eatin' Meetin' a reality.

This year's festivities promise another amazing helping of good food, great live music, an excellent speaker and a raffle featuring exciting auction prizes! Committee chairpersons from Area 5 will host booths offering a variety of AA information as they share their experience in General Service and the important role that General Service plays in our fellowship. Expect to hear a great D.J. spinning crowd moving party music as well as live performances from 2 musical acts.

You will not want to miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship!

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Eatin' Meetin' Extravaganza  
 Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 12noon-5pm

The Subud Bldg  
 5828 Wilshire Blvd  
 Los Angeles, CA 90036

Come one come all!

## Alternate Delegates Report

My name is Mike Peery and Charley is a friend of mine. More important to me, I am a friend of Charley's. I first met him about fifteen years ago when my group sent me to an AA district meeting, I was sent to find out what was going on and report back to them. He was the "man in charge" there, the DCM. I didn't understand him or anyone else there so when I reported back to my group all I could say was, "I have no idea what's happening". They sent me back again the next month.

Early in the months that followed Charley announced the district needed someone to do group registration. I asked, "What is that?" and Charley nailed me. He said it's easy and he would explain it to me and that I was now it. I enjoyed that job.

Charley introduced me to driving hundreds of miles, in one direction, always early on a weekend, to AA service meetings. We drove to these functions together. We both drive like maniacs and were very much in our element displaying macho calm at the other's maniacal risk-taking. These drives together I hope never to forget – in more ways than one. It was like locker room jokes and conversation on the way there, behaving like teenagers, and inventories of the day on the way back. For years Charley would like to say, "You never get a ticket driving, doing service". Well the law did finally catch up to us, a couple of years later we each got a speeding ticket.

Charley asked me to organize an AA event, something called a 4 area DCM sharing session. He said it was easy. It wasn't, and he kept me involved.

Charley and I used to attend a 6:15 am meeting. Seven days a week. He often would share, "... I'm having a great day, I haven't killed anyone." We would have to point out to him that it's not yet 7 am.

A childhood friend of mine called me about six years ago, and asked if I was still sober and if I knew of a place he could get help with his own drinking. Because I know Charley keeps a list of those places, without thinking I called him. Almost immediately Charley showed up and we drove my friend to a place Charley knew of. My friend is still sober to this day.

Charley had business selling CB equipment and gadgets. When I would visit him at work and an AA request came in, he would drop whatever he was working on and tend to the request. AA service always came before business.

Charley told me of a time he wanted to get sober and was standing in the parking lot after a meeting with only a suitcase – all his belongings. He called Harbor Lights, they took him in, and he never drank again. He was eternally grateful to that outfit.

Charley told me of how his father was an engineer at G.E. and demanded good spelling. Charley was a good speller. He was also knowledgeable in Greek mythology. I'm not envious of very many people when it comes to spelling, and I was envious of him. My then envy is my now loss. I am ignorant of Greek mythology and would like to know more.

He told me of how strict his mother was with him and his brother. He and his brother dared not disrespect her wishes in the slightest; for her wrath was fierce, physical, and swift. He was proud of his respect for his mom.

We once were driving from a local service event and Charley noticed, for lack of a better word, a derelict. He swung the car around and asked him if we could "be of any service". The guy wanted a ride far away and that wasn't in the offering so we asked what else we could do for him. I don't remember what we ended up giving this guy; I do remember the point was to let him know we had been where he was, that we could identify on equal terms, and where a different life could be found.

I am now without a service sponsor. Remembering how Charley would drop everything he was doing to be of service compelled me to ask him to sponsor me. When I would call him with a problem in service, usually my attitude, his solution began and ended with "just do it". In the middle it was tailored to my people-pleasing uselessness so it went something like, "Are you pissing people off?" If my answer was "I don't want to..." he would say, "Then you're not doing anything."

Continued from previous page

I will see you soon, Charley, we will make time for you to teach me Greek mythology, and I will piss some people off.

Your friend, Mike

## **The GSR and Concept Ten**

The GSR is sitting patiently going over his report notes waiting for the end of the meeting. The secretary thanks all the people with commitments and calls on the GSR last saying, “Can you hold off until next week? We’re out of time for tonight.” The group looks at him impatiently flicking their cell phones and fumbling for keys. *Whatever*. The GSR goes home angry and discouraged wondering why he took this thankless commitment.

At another meeting, the GSR waits for her meeting to close five minutes early, as she has requested. The secretary calls on her as planned and she begins to speak, connecting the group to AA World Service and AA as a whole.

What was different in the second group? The second group had held an informed discussion of the GSR’s responsibilities and duties, then discussed and implemented a description for their GSR based on Concept Ten which states “Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”

The groups are the source of authority in AA General Service. The power. They delegate some of this ‘authority’ to their GSR so that he or she can carry out their ‘responsibilities’ to discuss and vote on General Service issues, as their group sees the issue, and make sound decisions when they vote independently. The difficulty occurs when the GSR, with no job description, tries to report the results of their labor back to their group. The group with all that ‘authority’ vs. a GSR with less than two years or no experience is a clash of the strongest against the weakest levels of General Service. The result is responsibility without authority and it is a highly stressful situation for the GSR or for anyone in life for that matter. Bill W. was very progressive for his time to propose equal responsibility and authority for AA service commitments in Concept Ten. He gave us the car *and* the keys to turn on the engine. This means that if a GSR needs to report or discuss something with the group he or she should have the authority to ask for the time, within reason, to complete the task. This only comes about by informed group consent and hopefully a written job description that defines the responsibilities and authority of the GSR and that can be reviewed by subsequent secretaries.

The AA Service Manual is a good place to start composing a ‘well defined’ job description. It lists the ‘Duties’ of the GSR in detail. The GSR’s group may add other responsibilities that apply to them also like telling the secretary ahead of time that a report is needed. Last, define the GSR’s authority for each task. The GSR will have peace of mind and the job will be a fulfilling and productive experience.

Marilyn N.

## **A PRASSA to Remember**

Oh my gosh, what can I say, I am in awe of Alaska. It was beautiful flying in over the Glaciers, I had never seen such beauty. I have always enjoyed going to PRAASA but this year especially. Last year when I was sidelined due to my health I learned a whole new meaning to the word Gratitude. It was in the outpouring support that I received in my home group and the people in General Service that made me go on for just another day. The news today is still just one day at a time. I have learned to not take anything for granted, especially my health. So the fact that I was able to go to PRAASA this year was a blessing. I was able to travel with the help of the AREA funding us partially. I never would have been able to go with out there assistance. So, I, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I was able to Chair a Round table on Literature Friday night which was great. I met so many different people from all over. I think the Highlight was a gal from Australia asking how she could get the message to parts of Australia where AA is not allowed to be addressed or even talked about. The wide spread of our disease there is enormous. This gal, I don't remember her name, was about 3 years sober and coming to Alaska seeking advice, so she could take this information from the Round table back with her to Australia. She appreciated what she learned. I told her I hoped I would see her next year in Oakland and to learn of her progress.

The entire atmosphere was over whelming, the people I met, the Moose I saw. I had the pleasure of slipping on the ice. Walking to the Convention center from the Hotel and running in to people that were so friendly and willing to help with directions. The Saturday night dinner and listening to Greg M from the GSO, his share was very touching. You could feel his love for General Service. The food there, especially the fish was excellent. I got to room with Martha S, our Contributions Treasurer. We always have such a great time. We went shopping together and did a little sight seeing. It is nice to be able to share this with her. I could go on but the memory of this PRAASA will always be extra special. I, again, thank Area 05 for there assistance in allowing me to be of service.

In Love and Service

Patti W

Literature Chair

## **ALTERNATE DCM REPORTS ON TRIP TO PRAASA**

To: District 4, Area 5:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of experiencing PRAASA 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska. I'll be honest with you, I didn't want to go at first, and it was because of fear--fear of the cold weather, fear I was going to get sick and end up in the hospital, and fear of traveling alone (and I love to travel), fear of laying over in Salt Lake City, Utah for twelve hours. As to my flight schedule, what was I to do in a beautiful cold snowy city that I've been to once before, and being there for twelve hours? I looked up their meeting schedule and was planning on renting a car and doing some touring and meetings. This made me forget how sick I was going to get and end up in the hospital.

When I called the airport to confirm my flight, God did for me what I couldn't do for myself. My flight from Los Angeles was changed to a later flight, which meant getting to Salt Lake City and right to another plane going to Alaska. I was happy.

We arrived at Anchorage around 12:30 A.M. Friday morning and had enough time to rest and be at the Convention Center on the first event, Panel 1, Delegate Introduction, Area Service Highlights. It was 16 Delegates of the Pacific Region. Each Delegate described the number of groups and the service events in their area including area assemblies.

The rest of the panels, 2-7, were from five to seven presentations.

Panel 2, "Communication Within the Fellowship"; Panel 3, "Participation"; Panel 4, "Unity"; Panel 5, "Self Support"; Panel 6, "Communications with the World Around Us"; Panel 7, "Past Trustees Experience Strength & Hope."

I had the honor to participate as a moderator on Pane 4, "Unity." This Panel had five topics and participants.

Topics:

- 1) Unity at the Home Group. The Group Inventory, by Russ D. from Area 9- Mid Southern California.  
He talked about the home group having a responsibility and accountable, to make service possible by the 12 Traditions guidelines and the 12 Traditions checklist. I think it is list is very important that we practice this checklist in our meetings.
- 2) The AA Member. Medications and Other Drugs, by David F. from Area 18-Idaho.  
He talked about the Pamphlet, "AA Members Medication Not a Drug" and what his medicine cabinet consists of.
- 3) What Principles. Whose Personalities? The 12<sup>th</sup> Tradition in Action, by Carol B. from Area 42-Nevada.  
She talked about Tradition 1 and the Principal of Anonymity. And of the Principal of Humility that Emmet Fox comments on. How the 12 Traditions work in Principles before Personalities.
- 4) When is an AA Meeting not a Meeting of Alcoholic Anonymous? Is there a Standard to Adhere to? by Robert H., Area 93-Central California.  
He is a member of the Skid Row Drifters, which are very good meetings that I myself have attended. He talked about different pamphlets of different meetings, some being open AA meetings and the blue card meetings, which are closed AA meetings. The blue card states the singleness of purpose which means being an alcoholic only.
- 4) How do we Build a Strong Committee Structure from the Group to the District to the Area? by Harriet V. from Area 72-West Washington.  
She talked about how the committee structure comes through communication and how after each Conference make sure you relay the message to your group. She also talked about concept nine. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Our leaders begin in our home group.  
And the Fifth Tradition: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And not leaving out Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is one ultimate authority, A Loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

I am looking forward to our next PRAASA 2009 in Oakland. I know I won't die there, and most of all, I'm looking forward to our PRAASA here in Los Angeles in 2010. Thank you again for allowing me to be of service as your Alternate DCM.

With Love and Service... Maria

Your Seventh Tradition  
Carries the Message in  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (AREA 05)

**WHAT DOES GENERAL SERVICE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DO?**

- \* Annually sends our local delegate to the General Service Conference in New York to carry the conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous in Southern California.
- \* Holds assemblies and committee meetings for the representatives of local groups (GSR) to discuss the business of AA.
- \* Organizes efforts to bridge the gap between local treatment facilities and AA meetings.
  - \* Educates local health, legal and medical professionals about AA.
  - \* Addresses accessibility issues to alcoholics with special needs.
- \* Screens historical and educational AA films and videos at any meetings upon request.
- \* Collects and archives historical AA artifacts to preserve our local AA legacy.
- \* Carries the message of recovery through the Grapevine and the La Vina magazines.
- \* Maintains registration of all groups in our area for the AA international directory.
- \* Handles public information requests from the media and anonymity breaks in the AA fellowship.
- \* Maintains and makes available a comprehensive library of AA literature.
- \* Hosts a website ([www.aascaa.org](http://www.aascaa.org)) which provides information, maps and news to members in Southern California and around the world.

CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA TO THE  
STILL-SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC!  
SUPPORT YOUR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA!

## **Man in the street interview:**

### ***A Spiritual Experience in General Service***

**SCAAN REPORTER:** I understand you are having a spiritual experience in General Service. How do you define that? What do you mean?

**New DCM:** There was a point in my sobriety where the cumulative effect of getting a home group, attending more meetings and getting commitments at them, reading our literature and working the steps with a sponsor, all coalesced into my spiritual experience of a very present God of my understanding. It was a big "AHA!" moment, to say the least. Then, having had that effective spiritual experience of our second legacy, RECOVERY, it took 13 years of not drinking one day at a time until I really allowed the fellowship into my life (UNITY) and was given sponsees to work with who actually wanted what I had (SERVICE).

I am having another "AHA!" moment in General Service. It is my second tour of duty as a GSR and have now stepped up to DCM. I have a greater understanding and experience of how the individual, the group, and the General Service structure are all inextricably linked -- in the way that meetings, commitments, sponsorship and fellowship are linked. My participation in service committees at the district and area meetings, my attendance at Area Assemblies, my asking another AA to become my service sponsor help to ensure that the hand of AA will be there when anyone anywhere reaches out.

I share my enthusiasm for seeing others similarly engaged in my group when I make my regular GSR report or share as an AA. My enthusiasm for General Service has affected my homegroup. We have held a business meeting for the first time in at least a dozen years to deal with our finances, we discussed the GSO conference questionnaire and voted our group conscience.

Earlier in the year we were privileged to have our delegate Gustavo T. visit at my invitation, and in September '07, I did see women from my group at the Westside District's Love and Service event. When my commitment is up this year, I have hopes that an individual may step forward to become a new GSR.

Maybe in continued service I will have a spiritual experience as I gain increased understanding of the steps, traditions and concepts interrelate and work in my life. But for now, I am excited about getting involved in General Service as a way to stay green in sobriety and add more gusto to my program. I look forward to attending my first PRAASA in 2010, God willing!~

###

**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 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Trujillo

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 27<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and also to see all you DCM's at the 4 Area DCM Sharing session Feb.23<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 Hancock 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 Breen, 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 1<sup>st</sup> for the next issue. We also need submissions from each Committee Chair.

**Registration committee: Chair Doug Strickland** 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 Medina, 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 Isaacs** – 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 Blessing 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 Wright, 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 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 Caine** 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 Martini** – (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 Filipovich 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](http://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 Orazco 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 Foster Martir** –: We had 5 archive chairs from different groups in our meeting. We discussed about how to write down the groups histories to be able to put into the Area’s archives. Jane, from district 36 gave to us one copy of some group’s history. We talked also about how to translate this valuable information. We discussed the area chair’s ideas about the need to find out where to keep our area archives, we are going to give more information about this matter.

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GSO Group Service Number # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Day(s) and Time(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Address \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Send Receipt to:

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