

**Area 08 San Diego-Imperial  
Post-Conference Assembly  
May 15, 2021**

**Sign in for the Assembly:**

Join Zoom Meeting ID 921 1595 4865 Passcode: GSC2021

**Call to Order:** 9:14 am by Blaine H. Chair

**Serenity Prayer**

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**Declaration of Unity:** This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

**Registrar Notes:** Bill S.: Please rename yourselves-first, last initial, office

**Introductions** New GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, Alternates, Past Delegates, guests.

**Secretary Report:** Renee R. Minutes of the April Pre-Conference Assembly approval.  
Motion to accept the minutes: Minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cheryl F.

I regret that I was a bit late in providing the documents for today's assembly and I trust you have had a few moments to review the April finance report and the May 14<sup>th</sup> Barebones Spending Plan. I will take any questions or concerns following this report.

Bank of America has closed our fraud case. I reported to you in February that two checks totaling \$6945.09 had been recovered and returned to us but that there were still three checks that had yet to be recovered. The remaining three checks come to a total of \$2231.96.

We received two additional checks returned for a total of \$1478.96. In all, the incident of fraud cost us \$753.01. That amount was not the amount the check was originally written to reflect but that is the amount that was paid once the check was altered. It is the one check that was not recovered.

I have a few comments regarding the April finance report and the May 14 Barebones Spending Plan.

The first comment is regarding the April finance report, a few questioned the GSO send-off that is reflected in that report. If you remember the 2020 send-off was held off a few months until the result of the ongoing fraud case was better understood. That check was written and forwarded to GSO in March but was cashed in April. That was 2020 money that was earmarked for GSO but withheld. It does not show as a 2021 expenditure and is outside of the budgeted expenses. Let me remind you that is not an expense! It is a contribution made out of love for the continuation of 12 step work around the world.

Finally, I would like to inform you of the status of the 2022 spending plan. The May 14 Spending plan is the last document I will refer to as barebones. The ACM, GSRs and groups have been provided the barebones spending plan and invited to contribute to the rest of the 2022 budget. The next two ACMs, May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>, the remainder of the work on the spending plan will be done. You can expect to see the final 2022 proposed spending plan at the July 15<sup>th</sup> ACM. You have a voice in this process and I encourage you to use it. Nothing is final until it is final (November assembly).

In closing, I would like to look at the remainder of 2021. At the end of April, we had \$27,378.27 cash on hand. \$4,667.50 of that money is earmarked for the 2020 reallocation. If all of the 2020 reallocation money is spent, we have \$22,710,77. I mention this for two reasons. I encourage the projects funded by the 2020 reallocation to execute as the funds will dry up by 2022 and the second is to focus your minds on a possible 2021 reallocation. If you have unfunded projects/ideas, now is the time to start planning.

Questions: Lynn (GVLV) would you go over how we should budget for translation? Each Standing Committee in the past put in a Budget Request. When included the Translation money is added to the Area Budget line for interpretation/translation. For the 2022 budget you don't need to add translation if budgeted in the past, but if there are additional needs to the past, this needs to be requested//Concern around individual meetings might request money for hybrid meetings, should Area money go to individual meetings, please bring this discussion forward because there might be inequities in funding some meetings and others not. There is no way the Area can finance every meeting that requests funding for these types of needs, this could go forward to the ACM next week.

<b>April 2021</b>	<b>April Actual</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>2021 Budget 58,395.00</b>	<b>Variance with Annual Budget</b>
Group contributions:	3,201.48	12,848.90		
Individual contributions:	45.00	1,614.33		
District contributions:				
Total contributions:	3,246.48	14,463.23		43,931.77
Total budgeted expenses:	1,208.58	6,476.41		-49,482.59
Contributions less budgeted expenses:	2,037.90	7,986.82		
Total unbudgeted expenses:				
Total expenses:	1,208.58	8,396.13		
Contributions less total expenses:	2,037.90	6,067.10		

Total Cash Balance: April 2021	27,378.27		25% of budget	
<b>Prudent Reserve Balance</b>	5,000.00			

**Total Special Line Items**                -----                **1,087.49**

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**Plan for the Day:** Jerry S., Delegate

What an exciting day, a moment of fruition for us//it is a really exciting report//welcome to all the new GSRs//I love all the work we do for AA//we can get wrapped up in the minutia and detail but these are the cobblestones of the path we walk together//how do we bring unity into our thoughts and work together//So much love and tolerance comes together in my report today.

**71st General Service Conference-Delegate’s Report Back**

[71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE A.A. in a Time of Change \(area8aa.org\)](http://area8aa.org)

[71st-GSC-2021-Quick-Reference-Guide-ENGLISH-REV00.pdf \(area8aa.org\)](http://area8aa.org)

These documents are on the Area Website and we will be using these today. If you go to the Delegate’s corner all of the GSC materials are available//the quick reference guide is for your use that captures all the important points at the Conference//Esp for GSRs utilize this document is the most easiest way to share this information with your groups//If you check out the chart referring to the timeline to the conference, we are at the end with this Assembly.

AA In A Time of Change-71st General Service Conference:

“Don’t take yourself too seriously” Socks that stated “Don’t” “Panic”- sock exchange- photos of our feet! //the General Service Structure-upside down pyramid-Groups being on top//What the Delegate Does slide//slide of Jerry’s home office//

Remote Communities Panel and Discussion: Linguistic Communities-Spanish, Indigenous, Native Islanders, Geographically Remote Communities//Who are we failing to reach? Native American, Indigenous, Asian American, Home bound alcoholics-many due to COVID, technologically disadvantaged, adverse//We don’t to segregate anyone in our community//

New Trustee at Large, Area 42-Marita R.//Jerry did speak well of Roxanne but Marita was pulled from the hat//4 year position//Class B-Alcoholic//from the Pacific Region

**FINANCIAL:** Because Finances is not my strong point, I welcome any corrections//there are Financial Documents available only in English right now-send me an email to receive them.

7th Tradition hit a new record//Cost of Services, down//Self Support-covered almost all Services//AAWS profits down about 30 percent//but were enough to cover all expenses//savings were achieved because of the lack of travel//VRIP-Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan of Staff//Grapevine-print decreased but mobile increased//loss of \$298,699//La Vina circulation decreased//2021 GSO budget down a bit from 2020//Grapevine circulation down but online and e-Pub up for 2021//La Vina circulation decreasing//2020 Financial Highlights-Overall members responded to the cry for needed funds//Grapevine Circulation was up due to lack of in person meetings, our meeting in print increased//Reserve Fund-was drawn down by 1 ½ months of coverage-this fund served us exactly what it is meant for.//\$1.2 million in VRIP severance payments and \$3.6 million in pension related expenses//Comparison chart of 7th Tradition over the years//Growth of Online contributions over mailed in contributions//Online contributions are preferred//The Pacific Region had the most overall contributions//\$1 in 1935 is \$19.33 today// GSO's two basic functions-Publishing and Services on Behalf of the GSB-the website, Archives, record keeping//

Archives-presentation from Michelle, document permanently the work of AA

Jerry received a gift crate with snacks in it-Thank You!

AAWS Publishing was down from Actual to Budgeted.//BB sales down//Grapevine actuals vs Budget, slightly down//La Vina circulation was down//Grapevine and La Vina Circulation is up so far in 2021//

Break 10:30 am to 10:40 am

Continuance of the Delegate's Report Back:

Recurring Operating Expenses 2020-\$16.6 mil//largest portion goes to salaries//Prudent Reserve ended at about \$12.5 mil (\$4 mil was drawn down from \$16 mil)//over 125,000 Grapevine digital subscriptions were made free of charge during 2020

Committee Work-Grapevine and La Vina Committee & Archives for Jerry, from Committee recommended items go to the Conference floor, they can be voted down or passed and approved as an advisory action.

110 Agenda Items, 47 Committee Recommendations/6 Floor Actions//49 Advisory Actions and 88 hours of Conference.

Corrections: from inmate or offender changed to person in custody in all literature both in print and digital//thread based online forum-sharing on a topic, this has been helpful during the pandemic and should be carried on

Treatment & Accessibilities-report on audio interview with AA members who are in the Armed Forces//which are still being collected

Public Information\_ PSAs on "Party" and "Wall"//drinking on ZOOM//Virtual Happy Hours//How we build Walls around ourselves regarding drinking//2 new PSAs//feasibility of paid placement

of PSAs on streaming platforms (the new television)//Podcasts passed easily//In cooperation with GV and LV//Revision of the flyer "A Message to the Teenager"//Google Ad Words-improvement on how to find AA in searches//2021 AA survey took no action//

#### Cooperation with the Professional Community

LinkedIn page was approved//Creation of new pamphlet for mental health professionals-passed:Develop and Go!//Update on pamphlet to the Clergy//QR codes for table top displays

#### Finance:

"Where money & Spirituality Mix" Sample Pie Charts-to add watermark across pages with pie charts stating "SAMPLE"//Otherwise most Advisory Actions-took no Action i.e.-voted down

#### Trustees Committee

All Slates were approved//Censure was voted down, but quarterly virtual meetings should be held.//Explore thread base forums and new communication models for improved communication.

#### Report & Charter

AA Directories to be discontinued-unnecessary and outdated the minute they are published//Service Manual (new version) will be going into printing-GSR friendly//Revision of first Paragraph of the Conference Charter-adding 12 Concepts//Concept 11 Essay-added new section titled "Amendments" bringing the manual more current//continuing to be helpful in finding AA near you at AA.org (local contacts)

#### Grapevine & La Vina

Instagram account-implement with special consideration to anonymity//gender neutral language for the Preamble-took no action//could be forwarded to next year with additional documentation//But 2 floor actions about Preamble were taken.

#### Literature

Approved Literature Into Video Format approved//5th Edition of BB-proceed, development of this edition will be coming//12 X12 Revision passed-"opposite sex" to "partner"//Revise 12 X12 "rape"-removed No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony. Moving forward//AA for the Black and African American update passed//12 Traditions Illustrated will be kept//Experience Has Taught Us will be added-more simplified for comprehension-so both will co-exist//To add the longform of each Tradition to be added at the back of each essay in the 12 X 12//4th Edition of Spanish BB-advisory action to develop//Revise the text to self support in Frequently Asked Ques about AA-shortened from details//Q & A on Sponsorship changed to avoidance of a romantic entanglement arising between sponsor and sponsee//New pamphlet for Spanish Speaking Women in AA-approved//Plain Language and simple language B B to be translated to make in more accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.

Literature -

Two women from Area 8 will have their stories featured in the new pamphlet for Spanish speaking women.

Accessible Big Book will move forward.

There was such a large load of literature items that a majority of them will move to the 2022 GSC as the conference didn't want to rush through them.

Policy -

There will not be a new area created for online groups. The groups will continue to choose their district. This will continue to be explored though.

Archives -

The new history book did not pass. Area 8's exact verbiage will be used in the report (written by the Area 8 Archives Committee).

Floor Actions -

Jerry first explained floor actions to the Area.

The preamble update was passed as a floor action. There are two possible options for the updated language. It's unknown which will be used but the preference of the conference is 'Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people'.

The motion to remove three chapters in the Big Book (To Wives, To Employers and The Family Afterward) was withdrawn. This was because the accessible Big Book passed.

Misc -

Jerry missed seven hours of the GSC on the last day to attend his brother's wedding.

Q&A session from 12:10pm-12:30pm

**Lunch:** 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

**Birthdays** JoAnn Z., Alt Chair: Rob-10yrs, Chuck P-17yrs, Jim W.-5 years, Susan C.-37yrs, Willie D-, Cait-16yrs

**Chair's Report:** Blaine H.

Good afternoon! This is being written before Jerry's Report Back has been presented, but I think we can all agree that the product of our two Covid Conferences has been off the charts. The high interest and high profile actions that have resulted will have lasting effects on our Program and our Fellowship. Our ability to carry out our primary purpose has been greatly enhanced.

I believe we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our Delegate, Jerry, and to his understanding spouse Mackenzie. For the past seventy years our Delegates, while toiling long hours and driving many miles, have served our Area well. And part of that service involved two trips to New York, the Big Apple, Broadway, etc., and a chance to spiritually connect, hug, and share in person with the other representatives from all over the United States and Canada. Jerry has been rewarded with two trips to the exciting confines of...his basement! And he has done this with a smile and a true expression of gratitude for being able to serve! THANK YOU JERRY! We love you.

This is not the first nor the last time you will hear from me about the efforts of our Treasurer and our Finance Committee to develop the 2022 Spending Plan (Budget) for the Area. Change can be difficult. This year, in response to requests to make the process more transparent, and to give the Fellowship more say in how we spend the funds contributed by our Groups, a basic (Bare Bones) plan has been put forward. It is up to the Area to decide where the remainder of the funds will be spent. Proposals need to come from Committees, Districts, Groups, even individuals. Please understand that desired projects not covered in the Bare Bones Plan will NOT take place unless they have been specifically proposed in writing. Proposals are gathered by the Finance Committee and presented to the Area Committee for review. The final decision will come at the Budget Assembly in December. A workshop on this process was held earlier this week and there is another scheduled for Monday, June 14 th at 5:30 PM preceding the monthly Finance Committee meeting. Zoom information and a flyer are posted on the Area website &lt;area8aa.org&gt;. The next Area Assembly will be our Election Assembly on Saturday, September 25 th . We are excited that, Kathi our Pacific Regional Trustee, will be able to attend and preside over the election process. Although we did elect an officer (Richard O., Alternate Registrar) using a digital technique this past January, September will be the first time we use it for an entire slate. Fortunately, the techno-wizards from Area 5 will be "here" to use their well-tested system. Anyone who has served in a qualifying position (Area Officer, DCM, or Standing Committee Chair) since September of 2019 is eligible to stand for this election. A list of those eligible will be forthcoming soon. Before standing for any position, it would be wise to review the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the proposed update to the Structure and Guidelines (available on the website), discuss same with a current officer, and check with one's Service Sponsor.

**Alt. Delegate's Report:** Monty C., Alt Delegate Thank you to everyone who attended GSR School/Orientation. For those members that were in attendance, you will be receiving a follow up email from me. If you do not or have not receive an email from me, please consult your DCM or Committee Chair for my email. I will place it in chat along with my phone number. If you need GSR Literature, please



let me know. You can email me your address and I will mail you a package. I am willing to meet anyone in person for coffee and conversation for those new GSR.

We are working with Intergroup to have a Founders/Unity Day function. We have nothing planned at this moment, but we are meeting and will be announcing something soon.

I got an opportunity to visit a few of the districts since our last assembly. If you would like for any of us to visit your groups or districts, please let us know.

Lastly, on the topic of rotation, 2021 is an election year. Our area elections will be in September which will be our next assembly. We decided a few years ago to move the election up by a few months to give the person more time to get acclimated with the role and responsibilities of the position they are assigned.

For those who are rotating out of your current position, remember we still need you. I would hope that you would rotate on and not OUT. Your leadership skills and attention to detail will be very helpful in the outgoing conversation that we will get to have in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service...

**Notes on the Update of the Area 8 Structure and Guidelines:** Ernest D., Policy Committee Chair: Highlights-S&G describes the organizational structure of the Area//Update, was to improve readability, align roles and responsibilities of Area Officers and Committees//Add motions approved by the Assembly since 2017//Changes were made based on input received from Area Officers and Committee Chairs//Actions taken-Policy put forth a motion to update Area 8 S&G, Motion was passed to send the S&G to groups, Policy meets every 2 weeks to get work done//Committee chairs have approached to make changes to their write ups//Next Steps-further discussion with the Committee or the Assembly on a few suggested changes//Hold workshops for the Area explaining the contents of the S&G//final draft to be presented to the ACM and Assembly.

Question-Coordinating Council would like to do similar revision to their S&G, and would like a copy of new draft

**Effective Communication:** Joel C., Past Delegate, and Trustee:

You GSRs have quite the responsibility to complete the circle and to bring back Jerry's report to our groups//About 32 years ago I came to AA, but I did come to AA earlier when I was 18 and didn't pay attention, but I did get a message that AA was here// I saw the add in a Gay and Lesbian paper for AA//I called the number 2 weeks later, feeling desperate//I have learned that a great value in life is serving others//

Effective Communication-So that Alano Club (Live and Let Live) had put out an add in that newspaper I found that got me here//the PSAs get people here//during this time of isolation-drinking heavily has increased greatly//this has occurred during the Pandemic//this list of recommendations that have passed at the GSC, you won't want to share everything with your groups//but we will get many new people on the Zoom platform//The Podcasts will also be a route of communication to future members//when I called that number to AA a person listened to my drunken dialog despite how sloppy it was//I have been to 6 GSCs-twice as Delegate, 4 as

Trustee//one of the most profound part of it was watching and listening to everyone working together//I am so impressed watching people listen to both pro and cons on different points with love//Listening is contributing to the confidence of the conference//as long as we are Spiritual around the process-So listening is very important//When sharing at the mic, jot down a few notes on what I want to say and then forget about what I want to say about them//If I am rehearsing what I want to say, I don't hear what is being said//What has been important to me is to listen to others esp for opposing opinions-this has been so good for me//Hearing the Higher Power through others//the lead up to the third Step about the Actor arranging everything when actually the actor is ruining everything-this was very personal to me//In General Service it has been most tempting to be this actor, but I won't get my way//To do General Service well is to trust and let go//I need to say my part and then let go and not need to have my own way//All General Service problems are really Recovery Problems-in the Steps, often third and sometimes a 10th Step, the 11th Step in Group Conscious//The Third Step can help me in Communication//We must do this all with Kindness//take time to explain and be encouraging//It doesn't really matter what passes or not-it matters how we engage with each other doing this work, with kindness//this is how we serve our community well.

Many complements to Joel followed.

Could you please speak on non-verbal communication: It's that pat on the back from Dr. Bobs speech//non verbal communication is more important than verbal-tone of voice, facial expressions need to match what we are saying-heartfelt//to get my outsides and my insides to match I have learned in AA//

**Discussion of Compensation for ASL Interpretation:** Jeffrey D., Accessibilities Chair  
Request from ASL interpreters from \$50 to \$65 per hour//we are pioneers here in recovery for deaf and hard of hearing persons//2008 Sign Language Fund was instituted-Gold Can//pays the full cost or half cost of interpretation at meetings//pre-covid 11 ASL Interpreted meetings, 4 of which were self supporting//presently 6 meetings, 3 self supporting and 3 from Gold Can support//2016 \$50 per hour was approved \$75 for 1 ½ hours//for Area Business and Events the Accessibilities schedule interpreters//this is a special skill for AA verbiage and sayings//Interpreters have been underpaid//Deaf Services \$75 per hour in the day and \$85 nights and weekends \$85 for day and \$95 nights//holidays are more//the 8 Tradition states we pay for our professional workers//money and spirituality must mix//we are a spiritual group not an organization//we wish to continue to supply ASL Interpretation.

**A motion to increase the pay for ASL interpreters from \$50 to \$65 per hour//**

Discussion-Cheryl F (Treasurer) this is difficult for me, I understand the need, but I see the inequality with the Spanish Interpreters//We pay Spanish interpreters \$35 per hour//If we increase the ASL INterpreters they will get twice as much as Spanish interpreters//If we address this for everyone, and if I change the budget for 2022 this will effect it greatly//What will be the Financial Impact on the Area? This will increase the Area budget a lot//those numbers haven't been calculated yet//Tradition 8 long form that we must well recompense out special workers//Many thanks to Jeffrey for his service//and this motion will need to go back to the groups before it is voted on//we need more of a spreadsheet to understand this//it sounds to me

that we are undercutting our special workers//if the Spanish workers want a raise then there should be a separate motion for them//we are paying below standard rates//I am in support of this and think it doesn't go far enough//We want to reach out to the alcoholic who still suffers//Jeffrey and Renea spoke at the Coordinating council and out of over 1000 of meetings only 6 are being interpreted, this makes very few meetings for the hearing impaired//this speaks to our primary purpose-to carry the message//Gold Can helps meetings not the Area Business/events and meetings//

**The Accessibilities Committee would like to make the motion to increase the pay rate for ASL Interpretation from \$50 to \$65 per hour.**

Vote put on hold until quorum is calculated by Registrar 65.8% 66.6% would make it a quorum  
**8 Officers 12 Chairs 20 DCMs 77 GSRs no Liaisons**

**Quorum revisited on 5/20/2021**

**GSRs 80 DCMS 18 Chairs 11 Officers 8 Liaison & Webservant 2  
39/80 quorum was met**

Vote taken anyways, to be retaken when a quorum is present: IN favor of taking back to the groups: 61 85% // not in favor: 11 15%

I would like to make a motion to increase the Spanish Interpreters pay rate as well//this requires research and bring it up at the ACM next week//We can't make a motion to piggyback on another motion//

**Brief Notes on Reopening Meetings:** Blaine H., Chair

Anyone listening to the news of late can attest to the fact that recommendations regarding COVID19 precautions are rapidly changing. Just this past week, the CDC proposed that fully vaccinated individuals may go about outside without masks and associate inside maskless with others on a limited basis.

Of course, the CDC does not create the rules and regulations under which we live. Those are put forward by state and local governments. California has the tiered system whereby colors indicate the level of restrictions required by the current state of the pandemic in a particular area. As of this week, both Imperial and San Diego Counties are in the Orange Tier (Moderate) as are almost all other parts of California.

The current guidance for gatherings:

- **When vaccine status or testing is unknown:**  
Indoors discouraged but maximum capacity of 25% or 25 people (whichever is fewer). Wearing a mask and social distancing is required.
- **When all are fully vaccinated:**

Indoors, maximum of 150 people.  
Outdoors maximum of 300 people.

The current guidance for specific facility types analogous to our meetings assuming the fact that vaccine status for all attending an A.A. meeting will be unknown.

- **Places of Worship**

Indoors maximum 50% capacity (wearing a mask and social distancing required).

- **Restaurants**

Open for outdoor service (social distancing and masking- unless eating – required).  
Indoors at 50% capacity (social distancing and masking – unless eating – required).

We must remember that while these are the Orange Tier guidelines, the facilities in which we hold our meetings may have other rules and/or additional restrictions to which we must adhere. Each A.A. group is autonomous and must decide by group consensus how and when they wish to return to in-person meetings. There is excellent information on re opening considerations and on conducting a sharing session on the Area website <area8aa.org>.

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON COVID19 CONSIDERATIONS**

(In both English and Spanish)

**San Diego County** - <sandiegocounty.gov> coronavirus

**Imperial County** - <icphd.org

Ask It Basket Blaine H., Chair none!

Adjourn 3:05 pm

Next Area Assembly-Election Assembly-September 25, 2021

Responsibility Pledge: “ I am responsible when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am Responsible.”