

DISTRICT 43 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 1, 2014

Opened with the General Service Preamble at 2:10 p.m. and reading of Concept 1.

Attended by: Hurley T. (DCM), Ronald A. (Alt DCM), Susan K. (Secretary) Gary I., Carlos G., Jesse E., Ray H., Louie M., JayJay M., Richard K.

Additions to Agenda: No additions

DCM Report: See attached (M/2/A) JayJay is District 43 representative to PI/CPC.

Alt DCM Report: See attached (M/2/A)

Secretary Report: Provided in writing by Susan K. (M/2/A)

Treasurer Report:

As of May 31, 2014	Expenses	Income	Total
Month of	\$65.00	\$116.05	\$(51.00)
Year to Date	\$360.64	\$768.58	\$(407.94)

(M/2/A) Concern was expressed about the budget for PRAASA. Felt it was somewhat confusing because of the \$32.00 balance. A member felt that we need to set a minimum balance as well as a prudent reserve. It was agreed to table the discussion until next month when the Treasurer could be there to answer any questions. The GSR for LOLT will ask the group to suspend our coffee fund until we can afford it. It was determined that \$8.00 a month from each of the 25 groups would meet our yearly budget.

WEBMASTER REPORT: Going well. It has been updated. District Chairperson, Alternated Chairperson, Treasurer & Secretary now have email addresses on the site. (M/2/A)

GSR Reports:

Central (Gary I.): Not much going on. Always running in the red. With new information on the District budget he will be able to bring this to their attention and will be able to get contributions from the group.

Early Morning (Susan K.): Nothing to report

Fresno K.I.S. (Jesse E.): Celebrated on May 24th their 1st year. Rent has been set at a flat amount.

LOLT (Richard K.): All meetings are covered. A lot of newcomers. They elected a new chairman and secretary. It is an ongoing challenge dealing with oldtimers who feel those in service should pay their own expenses.

Outside Group (JayJay): No changes. There are a few meetings with low in attendance.

Steps and Promises (Louie M.): Nothing new to report. Trouble getting them to donate to district due to the prior invalid PO Box.

Selma - Keep It Simple (Carlos G.): Jim G. is their new treasurer.

Westside (Ronald A.): Seventh Tradition is low. They are strong in sobriety, service and unity. Dance to be held at the Alano Club

Old Business:

- 2015 PreAssembly Conference – Jess spoke with Nancy (Co Chair). Meal numbers should be planned according to preregistration numbers plus 20 more. Jess would like to feed volunteers. LaQuinta and Best Western have rooms reserved. The group agreed to meet June 22nd at 2:00 pm @ LOLT for a preconference planning meeting.
- Delegate's Visit – District 41 is sponsoring Kelly's visit on July 26th at "Palm and Shaw" @ 12:00 – 2:30 pm. They are planning to provide food.
- Unity Day – No report.
- GSR School – Tabled to next month. Susan to bring information next month's meeting.

New Business: None

Closed with the "Responsibility Statement" @ 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Susan K. 6/6/2014

DCM Report-District 43
June 1, 2014

I attended Post Conference in Sacramento, May 17th and 18th. The main highlight was the Delegate report. There were also Round Tables, Panels, and discussion items.

On Saturday, May 17th we started at noon, and continued until 9pm. During this time frame, Kelley Moran, Area Delegate, gave a very detailed report (copy attached). He covered agenda item, whether approved, failed or no action was taken by the board. His report lasted for more than an hour and a half.

The Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) proposed appointed chairperson is still not resolved. I wasn't allowed to be brought to the floor for vote

After Diner, we had a panel on our second legacy, unity, and at 8:15, we broke into roundtables. I attended the DCM roundtable. A copy of that roundtable is attached.

We reconvened Sunday at 9am, starting with reports from the various roundtables. The second panel was about our third legacy, service and service sponsorship. This was a very good panel. All the panelist did a very good job, particularly the one on concept 9.

Delegate report, this one was short, only a half hour.

The assembly closed at noon.

I visited Last Hooray on Friday night – a very good, well attended candlelight meeting.

PC/CPC meets on the last Sunday of each month, 2pm at Central Office. I have a conflict because my men ministry meet the same time and day, but we need a liaison person to attend.

This concludes my report.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Hurley T.

2014 CNIA Post-Conference Assembly Roundtable Report Backs

DCM – Justin, DCM, D20

How do you get more GSRs involved?

- Visit groups and try to make General Service sound attractive and interesting.
- Go to business meetings and ask if they would like to be heard.
- Lead by example. Make yourself heard in District meetings. Introduce yourself as DCM to everyone around.
- Workshops on topics including Agenda Items. Bring food, have skits, make it interesting.
- Speak on behalf of General Service. Sometimes General Service has a bad reputation.
- Go to dark meetings. Say, “we need somebody from your meeting.” Visit all meetings in your District. Have a District Outreach Committee. Ask meeting if they have a contact person.
- Ask meetings if they have a contact person. Maybe they can eventually become a GSR.
- Fund scholarships with extra District money. Bring GSRs to Assemblies.

Once GSRs are online, how do we get them involved in the District?

- Email GSRs prior to District meetings. Or group texts. This promotes inclusion.
- Ask for help. Grab an old-timer.
- Invite any AA to the District meeting. Get outside input.
- Share about service. “Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself; it’s thinking of yourself less.”

Distribution and Contribution

- Being self-supporting through our own contributions makes us a part of.
- The amount doesn’t matter. It’s that you contribute.
- “NY loves getting checks for a \$1.”
- Do the splits however you want. My group distributes every 3 months.
- Where does the money go? Get involved if you have extra money. Pay for a scholarship.
- “Spend your money wisely.”

GSR – Lynn S, GSR, D29

6 questions came up. We discussed 3.

Sponsorship and service sponsorship

- To help train Secretaries and District Secretaries, a District Secretaries manual could be used for that.
- Look to the Big Book or the Service Manual because that is where answers are
- Someone being your service sponsor is just a title. We get too much into the title here.
- Let’s not have candy-ass AA.
- Brining in food is not self-support. We must be frank when these issues come. “Please put away the food.” “It’s time to start the meeting.”

Addressing meetings that don’t stick to format

- Topic meetings turn into tag team meetings. That may cause resentments. That might disrupt singleness of purpose. Does the newcomer get to speak?
- “Fellowships” versus single home groups. It is responsibility of GSRs to assist the Fellowship.
- To determine format, address it at a business meeting.

- It may not be good to pinpoint specific people. It could ruffle feathers.
- The ByLaws might address specifics in your group of issues that have come up.
- Picking older members to secretary group for a while to get meeting on track.
- Coming up with ideas to create focused topics.
- They have topics in a hat and people get called out of the hat. That avoids people calling on their friends.
- Do a group inventory and put the format down on paper.
- The Secretary is responsible for running the meeting.
- Two sided tickets. You got a ticket in the beginning of the meeting and called on in that way.
- Go back to the Big Book for direction.

Appropriateness of Lord's Prayer

- From the oldest meetings, it is traditional to read it at the end
- Some don't use Lord's Prayer because it doesn't fit all beliefs
- Who are we alienating?
- Group are autonomous. We can choose the prayer of our choice.
- Tradition 10 – no views on outside issues. No opinion on that.
- No one has to say the prayer.
- The 3rd Step Prayer or the Responsibility Statement can be read.
- It may be an issue of group conscience.
- It can be about the words, not the history of the prayer.
- Someone will always have a problem with what to read at the end of the meeting.
- You can go to GSO's website and ask them about the prayer. But they probably won't give an opinion. They will say it's up to the group conscience.
- Some said it is an implied endorsement of Christianity.
- There are agnostic meetings.
- When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
- If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Area Officers and Appointed Chairs – Jon C, Secretary

Not funding dinner at PRAASA.

- Con is it seems expensive. Pro is it's about fellowship.
- I wasn't impressed with my PRAASA dinner. But part of PRAASA 2017 is dinner helps make the PRAASA funding work.
- Without the dinner, we might pay more for registration.
- At all Assemblies, I always bought dinner because it supports the Assembly.
- What can we afford as an Area to pay? Something is that we don't have a fixed cost. Maybe we should pick an amount to pay and only pay that. The PRAASA dinner is part of the overall planning and how they are able to make up some of the cost for the Assembly. Also, it is part of the PRAASA experience. Worst case scenario for our trusted servants: we can only offer a portion to attend PRAASA. PRAASA is a key, critical element to helping us grow in service.
- If we are funding people to PRAASA, we should fund people to dinner at PRAASA. It's part of the experience. In our Area, we do count on dinners as part of the program. I'm not there for the food.

- I understood it was a hard \$500. Is it whatever you spend you get? I spent a lot.
- Some people take it as a hard number. Some people take it as a starting point. It is a budgeted number. Some people are traveling farther and they may go over the limit. The general thinking is you submit something to the Treasurer and it's what it cost then you get reimbursed for that.
- In some years we say it's a hard number. In general we just budget it. If someone has a large expense, everyone will see that in the financial reports. If you go over budget, you can say you did it for X, Y and Z reasons and the Chair approved it and if you ask people if they are okay with it, they will say yes.
- For the first year of the Panel, we don't know where people will live. We can look at what we can do to reduce our costs. I need to think about sharing a room. We have an obligation to be fiscally responsible.

One member's opinion: any pamphlet is an excuse to say I'm different and I'm not like you. We say here's the pamphlet, an excuse to not read the Big Book.

- At my AA birthday party, my daughter, a potential alcoholic, read a pamphlet on being Too Young in AA. This changed my whole perspective on pamphlets. It's not for us who are experienced. It's for others who don't have a program yet.
- I think that we have pamphlets for the same reason we have stories in the Big Book. It's to help people identify.
- The Big Book was written when there were a hundred people sober and the Twelve and Twelve when we our Fellowship was fifteen years old. The pamphlets continue to be our collective, current experience. The Big Book was written by white, Protestant men a long time ago and we have pamphlets to relate to now. We can give these to a newcomer, and we might give a social worker these to help them understand AA.
- I got the 20 Questions pamphlet and I answered yes to 12 questions. I could have said yes to 19. The deal was I kept saying, "yeah I'm different." The sponsor said every answer to my problems was in the Big Book. The answer to every problem I have is in the Big Book if I search for it. We should ask are we willing to spend \$70,000 on a new pamphlet, PSA, or film? Are we being prudent with the money? Also, when do we stop creating pamphlets? Where do we stop picking out something that might be a little different?
- I agree that all the answers are in the Big Book. If we've been around here for a while, I can find that answer in the Big Book. If we can reach people that won't pick up the Big Book, that is good. There are a lot of people not coming into AA because of what they think they know. Our pamphlets are a way to tell who we are.
- Pamphlets are helpful in recovery and service. For example, the sponsorship pamphlet. We use inventory questions out of the AA Group pamphlet. To me, we should be promoting them more. Sometimes, we hear something and wonder where it came from. It came from General Service Conference-approved literature.
- What is the reason we have a pamphlet for gays, blacks, etc? For identification. The question to ask is do we need this pamphlet for identification? Can we change the current pamphlets to help identification? I don't want people to come in and think, "I have a drinking problem but they won't accept my other stuff."
- The pamphlet rack was overwhelming and I didn't see it as associated with the Big Book. Then I got into service and I had to look up the AA Group and other pamphlets and I saw

their usefulness. If I have a mental health issue but addressing it is in five different places, I won't be able to find it.

Some confusion when we call for the vote. Maybe we should have some parliamentary procedures around for everyone to see.

- Why did this topic come up? Because of the ending of the discussion on Saturday.
- At PRAASA, Madeleine, the business meeting chair, addressed a similar thing. About Robert's Rules and how we're not strict on that. If we make that the order of the room, that requires me and everyone else to know Robert's Rules of Order. I think it's important to have a general understanding.
- I googled Robert's Rules when I stepped in once. It was so helpful. It would be so helpful for us.
- The General Service Conference has a document they use. We could use that. However, the GSC does a lot of business at the Conference where we don't. It might detract from the spirit of what we try to do in our business sessions.
- The document from Panel 54 might be something to pass out. However, it's from Panel 54 and we need to look at whether it's still current. The Chair has wide discretion in our Area. If people want clarification on what we're doing, that can be passed out. We want to avoid strictly following Robert's Rules of Order. The reality is we talk about things as long as it takes. At the GSC, we can't table things; we have to address it at that Conference.
- How does the Young People's Chair motion stand the next time it comes up? The discussion will be open to continue.
- The little sheet that they pass out at PRAASA is really simple and addresses AA Tradition. For calling the question it says we vote on whether to vote. I don't think we got that yesterday. I think people thought we were voting on the main motion. There are so many people that come in as new GSRs at their first Assembly. If we had something that was consistent, it would help. Also some of these motions and discussions were spread out over several Panels.
- With Old Business and New Business, are we going to carry it over to Sunday? Are we going to discuss the button this weekend? Answer: I've seen a lot of interest in the Young People's motion. The button item we can carry over. We can try to discuss it Sunday if there's time. Our Area inventory talked about doing business on Saturday when GSRs are here.
- Well then, why don't we just do a one-day Assembly? I think if we're here on Sunday, we should go ahead and do business on Sunday. We shouldn't help people to feel they don't have to attend on Sunday.
- The other issue is how much time to schedule for Old and New Business. Do we want to not do a panel?
- We will have to stop something on Sunday. Do we need two panels? It is an Assembly after all.
- We can discuss the young people's chair motion and the button at the ACMs in the summer and bring it back and be ready at Mini-PRAASA.
- What about limiting the sharing like they do at PRAASA? Answer: we've thrown that around a lot before. Oldtimers have said we don't limit sharing in our Area.
- I love the idea that if you have an opinion that's already been expressed, you don't have to say it.

- The Area people ate up a lot of time with reports and that sets a bad example for the DCMs who then also do long reports. At an ACM, we couldn't do any business because of how long reports were.
- There was a timer at the 2010 Mini-PRAASA in Chico for business. You got three minutes to talk.
- We don't necessarily need a timer, but we can keep it brief.

DISTRICT 43 ALTERNATE DCM REPORT

June 1, 2014

Ronald A., Alternate DCM – District 43 attended the monthly Intergroup Secretary held Monday, May 5, 2014 at 315 West Shield (Unity Church), Fresno, CA.

The meeting opened with the Serenity Pray and the reading of the 12-Traditions of AA, by Cory at 7:00p.m.

There was a quorum representing the Greater Fresno Area Intergroup Association, Inc. available for the meeting.

1. Old Business included the approval of the budget CCAA to be held May 16-18, 2014 and New Business was discussed.
2. Events discussed included:
 - a) Johnny again shared about the CCAA to be held May 16-18, 2014
 - b) Bill shared about the Picnic to be held June 7, 2014 at Kearney Park, also announced that Melissa and Marty are coordinating activities and food, and Rod is coordinating clean-up. Terri announced that water and sodas can be donated and brought to Central Office.
3. Staff reports were discussed:
 - a) Terri reported that Big Book Edition is available for \$12.00.
4. Coordinator Reports were provided by the:
 - a) Intergroup Participation,
 - b) Joe G. Intergroup Speaker Coordinator was not available to provide a report;
 - c) Patrick S. TeleService Coordinator was not available to provide a report;
 - d) Ray H. Web Manager provided a report;
 - e) Billy W. Pipeline Editor reported that Jodie N. will be the new Pipeline Editor and items to be included in the monthly editions should be provided by the 15th of each month
5. Group Reports were provided and discussed:
 - a) Home Group is moving effective May 26, 2014;
 - b) Kingsburg AA is tentatively scheduling a Picnic for June 2014;
 - c) Mariposa Fellowship will be voting for an Intergroup Secretary.
6. Board Reports were provided and discussed:
 - a) Kathy P. PI/CPC will be attending AA group business to inform groups of their services;
 - b) Treasurer provided report;
 - c) Chairman informed members attending that a switch to Comcast for internet services.

DISTRICT 43 ALTERNATE DCM REPORT

June 1, 2014

7. Liaison Reports were provided by:

- a) District 40,
- b) District 41,
- c) District 42,
- d) District 43,
- e) District 49,
- f) H&I,
- g) FCYPAA,
- h) NCCAA, and
- i) CCCAA

The meeting was adjourned with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord's Prayer

**District 43 Finance Report
and Budget For 2014
P.O. Box 4666
Fresno, CA 93744-4666**

Actual Amounts

2014 BUDGET AMOUNTS

Beginning 1/1/2014
Balance \$424.51

	May	YTD	Annual Budgeted	+/-
Income				
7th Tradition	\$ 60.05	\$ 218.05	248	-30
Committee Friends/Fundraisers				
ACYPAA		\$ -		0
Ice Cream Social		\$ -		0
Events		\$ -		0
Individual Contributions				
Anonymous	\$ 5.00	\$ 132.59	60	73
Total Friends/Fundraisers	\$ 65.05	\$ 350.64	60	291
Group				
CAP		\$ -		0
Central Fellowship		\$ -		0
Coalinga Fellowship		\$ -		0
Downtown Newcomers		\$ -		0
Early Morning St Therese		\$ -		0
Kingsburg Fellowship		\$ -		0
Fresno KIS		\$ 10.00		10
LOLT		\$ -		0
Minkler Group		\$ -		0
New Beginnings		\$ -		0
Outside Group		\$ -		0
Pine Flat Group		\$ -		0
Reedley - Monday Night		\$ -		0
Reedley - Noon		\$ -		0
Reedley - Sunday Night		\$ -		0
San Joaquin Memorial		\$ -		0
San Joaquin/Tranquility		\$ -		0
Sanger - Community Church		\$ -		0
Sanger - St Marys		\$ -		0
Selma KIS		\$ -		0
Soul Solutions		\$ -		0
Squaw Valley Fellowship		\$ -		0
Sunnyside Group		\$ -		0

Village of Hope		\$ -		0
Westside Fellowship		\$ -		0
Total Group Contributions	\$ -	\$ 10.00	1845	-1835
Total Income	\$ 65.05	\$ 360.64	2153	-1792
Expense				
Bank Fees				
Bank of America Account fees.	\$ 16.00	\$ 80.00	192	-112
PRAASA				
DCM Room		\$ 267.98	300	-32
DCM Travel		\$ 206.57	200	7
DCM Report		\$ -	75	-75
Rent				
LOLT(Coffee)		\$ 7.98	120	-112
Post Office Box	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	88	-43
Area Committee				
DCM Gas		\$ 40.00	450	-410
Area Assembly				
Rooms	\$ 22.80	\$ 81.80	500	-418
Travel	\$ 32.25	\$ 39.25	300	-261
Meeting/GSR Expenses				
Copies		\$ -	60	-60
Binders		\$ -	60	-60
Area Officer Visits (2)				
GSR School and Delegate Report		\$ -	150	-150
Total Expense	\$ 116.05	\$ 768.58	2153	-1384
Balance	\$16.57			

Month	Income	Expenses	Total Inc/Exp
May	\$ 65.05	\$ 116.05	\$ (51.00)
YTD	\$ 360.64	\$ 768.58	\$ (407.94)