

DISTRICT 43 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Opened with the General Service Preamble & reading of Concept IX at 2:00 p.m.

Attended by: Hurley T. (DCM), Ronald A. (Alt DCM) Billy W. (Treasurer), Susan K. (Secretary) Carlos G., Jesse E., Juan Manuel S.

Additions to Agenda:

DCM Report: See attached

Alternate DCM Report: Nothing to report.

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

Treasurer Report:

As of August 31, 2014	INCOME	EXPENSES	TOTAL
Month of July	\$50.00	-	\$50.00
Year to Date	\$466.64	\$784.58	(\$317.94)
Month of August	\$25.00	-	\$25.00
Year to Date	\$491.64	784.58	(\$292.94)

(M/2/A) Practiced the 7th Tradition. Concern was expressed regarding removing the past DCM's name from the PO Box. Will we be able to keep that PO Box number? To speak with the Postal Service and former DCM and let us know at the next meeting.

Website Manager Report: Our website bill is due September 21, 2014. A two year subscription will be \$167.76 which Ray is willing to pay. Question was brought up as to whether we as a group had decided to have a website. Susan to check guidelines and previous meeting minutes and bring information back to next month's meeting.

GSR Reports:

Central (Hurley T.): The group is really hurting financially. They have begun a women's meeting.

Early Morning (Susan K.): Have begun to contribute to GSO, CO, D43 & CNIA. Everything going as usual.

Fowler (Carlos G.): The group was to have contributed to D43 but it has not been received. He will be checking with them.

K.I.S. (Jesse E.): Outgrowing their current room.

Last Hoorah (Juan Manuel S.): Both meetings are doing well. Friday's have unintentionally become all men.

LOLT (Jesse E.): They are hosting the Intergroup Speaker meeting Friday, September 12. They will be having a picnic on Saturday the 20th.

Selma - Keep It Simple (Carlos G.): Nothing to report.

Westside (Ronald A.): They have added a Women's Only meeting scheduled on Sundays, from 3:00 – 4:00 PM beginning Sunday, September 7, 2014. Attendance, Newcomers and 7th Tradition is at a new all time low. They will be having their Annual Day at the Park Picnic on Sunday September 14, 2014 at Roeding Park at the Redwood Grove. There will be a barbecue, potluck and a 50/50 drawing. It begins at 8:00 am.

Old Business:

- 2015 Area Assembly Update: Jesse is planning on 150 people. Serving chicken, pasta, green beans and dessert. Has his servers lined up. The chairperson Jeff will be meeting with us at 1:30 pm before our next business meeting to begin planning the event.
- **Gratitude Day:** To be held Saturday, November 8th beginning at 2:00 pm. We are planning to have a Service Panel, Alanon Panel, Alateen Panel & Debbie D. from the coastal area will be

speaking at 7:00 pm. Dinner will be Hobo Stew with everyone bringing something for the pot (that is in cooking pot). A member is trying to reserve a spot at the Grace Methodist Church located on Balch and Fourth.

New Business:

Next month's meeting will be October 12th

Closed with the Responsibility Statement @ 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Susan K. 9/11/2014

DCM Report District 43

September 7, 2014

On August 16, 2014, I attended ACM. It was a full day, covering a variety of items/topics. Some highlights are as following:

1. There is an opening for *Bridging the Gap Chair*, Cindy stepped down. Interested parties can go cna.org to see the qualifications or just contact Mike Kim.
2. Delegate's report was given by Alternate Delegate – Vicki.
 - a. The Final General Service Inventory Report will be shipped to Kelley the last week of August. He will have copies at the September area committee meeting, (September 20th).
 - b. For the first 6 months of the year, ^AAWS had a net profit of over \$600,000 and Grapevine had a net profit of \$156,456.
3. Brought to the floor for discussion:
 - a. Celia has been translations for “*Accents*” (“*Accentos*”), for Hispanic alcoholics. Since Celia has been working hard translating both, a motion was made by Brook Daly to make an appointed chair position. The motion was second and it will be further discussed at the September ACM.
 - b. There was another proposal to get ASL into groups like Area 06 and Area 08. They pass gold cans during the 7th, at meetings.
 1. Bring to districts for discussion.
 - c. There was a motion to reconsider creating literature on “Alcoholics with Mental Illness,” this is one of the agenda items that no action taken on, but there was a lot of interest, particularly in our area. We will vote on having this motion present to General Conference at September's ACM. *A copy is attached for your review and discussion.* It will be discussed at Mini-Praasa. Must get it to the Trustee Committee on Literature by November 3rd to be considered. It's proposed as mental health literature not just a pamphlet.
4. As you know the area is conducting group inventory. *I have attached a copy of the inventory questions* to be considered at Mini-Praasa. I will need your feedback on these questions.
5. Our website bill is due on September 21, 2014. Ray can further explain in his report. I guess everyone got his email.

There were other things discussed, but I felt those were the most important issued to the group.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Committee Member,

Hurley T.

559-376-2056

dcm@district43area7.org

CNIA 07 2014 INVENTORY QUESTIONS

Communicating our Legacies: Vital in a changing World

1. Finance: Is Area 07 being fiscally responsible and a good custodian of the 7th Tradition monies entrusted to us?

Are we budgeting and spending district contributions responsibly?

Are our Finance Committee and Treasurer available for inquiries with transparent reporting?

As an area, are we acting responsibly with the group and district contributions?

2. Assemblies: Are the Area 07 Assemblies really helping to carry the message? What could be done better or differently?

Are the area assemblies serving the groups and are the groups aware of the purpose of the area assemblies?

Do our assemblies need to be as long as they are...just because they've always been like that?

By continuing the Area 07 tradition of not timing the GSRs Agenda Item reporting at Pre-Conference, are we encouraging or discouraging GSR participation?

Would more GSRs attend PreConference if the wait at the podium were shorter?

3. Elections/Officers/Trusted Servants: Our trusted servants are an important part of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Do we, as an Area, make sure that we are well informed as we choose our trusted servants? How could we do it better?

Is our Election Procedure effectively selecting leaders and nurturing Leadership qualities in those Trusted Servants?

Can we have those making themselves available read their own resume?

Do the Area Officers and Appointed Chairs exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties?

Are they safe and supported when asking for help?

4. Service Sponsorship: Does Area 07 do an effective job informing new trusted servants about the role of the Area and about the importance of Service Sponsorship?

What can we do to help new GSRs, DCMs and trusted servants understand their obligations?

How can we let the new GSRs and new DCMs become aware who are available to be a service sponsor?

How can we better educate the importance of service sponsors are?

Regarding new DCMs; do the Area officers/Trusted Servants do a thorough job of sharing their experience with DCMs on procedures such as:

- *ACM meetings, group info change forms,*
- *District group rosters,*
- *Registering/preparing for Area Assemblies,*
- *Submitting monthly reports to the Recording Secretaries,*
- *Submitting bids for Assemblies,*
- *ACM calendar*
- *CNIA elections*

Do these duties fall to the Area officers & Trusted Servants?? If not, who instructs/welcomes the new DCMs?

5. Serving All Districts: Is Area 07 considering the diversity and geographical challenges of our entire Area?

How well are we reaching out to the Districts/Groups that do not have representation in our Area, in General Service?

What can we do for the DCMs/GSRs from the outermost districts or districts with financial limitations so they can participate fully?

Do we always consider & include the small, remote and/or bilingual Districts?

District 15, California Northern Interior Area 07

August 16, 2014

California Northern Interior Area 07
Area General Service Committee

Dear Area 07 Officers, Chairs, and Voting Members:

On July 28, 2014 the voting members of the District 15 General Service Committee decided, with 100% unanimity, to support a motion requesting that the 2015 General Service Conference readdress the issue of creating Literature for the Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues. Two groups presented the request to the District Committee independently: the Paradise Women's TGIF Meeting, and the Chico Sunday Night 12X12 Meeting. As part of the same motion, the Trusted Servants representing District 15 now ask that the CNIA support the creation of the literature as well.

While this issue did not make it out of committee at the Panel 64 Conference, significant support was shown for the creation of literature, which focuses on "Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues," when our own Area 07 Delegate co-sponsored a floor action with the California Northern Coastal Area 06 Delegate. We believe that this is a strong signal that creation of this literature is not a "dead issue", and is worth ongoing consideration. Furthermore, we the General Service Representatives and Officers of District 15 firmly believe that the creation of this literature is "the next right thing" in our collective goal of helping the alcoholic who still suffers.

Since the first printing of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, subsequent literature published by AAWS has come to reflect our ever-growing experience as sober members of AA. Conference approved pamphlets, flyers, and booklets have served as a tool for millions of prospective members, current members, sponsors, and members of the community at large to aid in their own recovery and to better serve the alcoholic who still suffers. Current literature published by AAWS includes publications targeted to a wide array of demographics, life situations, backgrounds, and specific needs. Currently, there are 58 free publications available from AAWS. Many of these valuable pieces of literature focus on specific characteristics of alcoholics such as gender, race, age, military service, or criminal history, just to name a few. As our basic text states, "We are average Americans. All sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social, and religious backgrounds. We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful." Bill Wilson's primary vision was a Fellowship and a Program that could release any alcoholic from the grips of his disease, regardless of any other circumstance. We believe a piece of literature focused on the Alcoholic Living with Mental Health Issues will be another valuable tool to this aim; reaffirming our Third Tradition, while targeting an identified need among alcoholics both in and out of our rooms.

AA literature is not solely distributed in meeting halls, Alano clubs, and church basements. Pamphlets, brochures, and flyers very often end up in doctor's offices, health clinics, and psychiatric wards. AA has enjoyed a valuable relationship with the professional community since before "The Doctor's Opinion" was added to the Big Book. Our current literature displays a consistent respect for mental health professionals in their work with sick alcoholics. But it has always been our position that no one has quite the perspective into the peculiarities of the alcoholic mind like another alcoholic. Literature sharing the first-hand accounts of alcoholics who have entered recovery, both from their spiritual malady and

mental conditions, could be an invaluable resource to mental health professionals faced with the challenge of a patient or client who is a problem drinker. By providing professionals with clear examples of how AA can help an alcoholic even when severe mental health issues are present, we will be fostering Cooperation with the Professional Community in an even greater capacity.

We are taught by our sponsors to "listen for the similarities instead of the differences" in other members' stories. While this is advice of beyond value to the newcomer, the fact remains that not all alcoholics share an identical story. Sometimes sponsors are put in a position of trying to help a newcomer, or long time member for that matter, who faces a situation of which the sponsor has no personal experience or knowledge. The Conference Approved Literature published by AAWS represents the collective experience of our 80-year history. Experience that, as members of AA, we can draw upon to help another alcoholic, when our personal experience does not provide the answers we need. Mental illness is a unique challenge for anyone, let alone someone finally facing their problems with alcohol. The dual diagnosed alcoholic may be facing challenges his sponsor has never considered. This pamphlet would be a much-needed tool in bringing sponsors and sponsees together in our Common Solution, even when there is a difference in individual experience. Simple statistics dictate that not every alcoholic diagnosed with a mental condition is going to be able to find a sponsor who shares that part of his experience. A publication for the Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues will provide a needed resource for sponsors to reach out the hand of AA to new comers with stories different than their own.

While there is literature that does address the needs of the alcoholic with mental health issues, we feel that the existing literature is "hidden" in books and pamphlets that a newcomer to Alcoholics Anonymous is hard-pressed to find on his or her own. Additionally, the stories in "Special Needs" and "Medication and Other Drugs" are targeted for a very specific topic and do not adequately cover the breadth of the issues that alcoholics with mental health issues can face as they try to recover.

But perhaps the most important reason for the publication of this literature is the one we can't yet identify; the alcoholic none of us has yet met. If there is even one alcoholic in the world who thinks AA isn't for him, because he's not "just an alcoholic," but also diagnosed as mentally ill, then no cost is too great to let him know he's welcome among us; that AA can do for him what it has done for millions of other people facing the full spectrum of human conditions. "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, we want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that, We Are Responsible." We the trusted servants of District 15 would like to ask the General Service Conference to extend its hand to a documented community of suffering alcoholics, and we invite the California Northern Interior Area of AA to join us in our request.

Yours in Love and Service,

Gary Besser
General Service Representative,
Sunday Night 12x12 Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, Chico, CA
Recording Secretary, District 15, California Northern Interior Area 07

Brooke Daly
District Committee Member, District 15
California Northern Interior Area 07

**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

	July	August	YTD	Annual Budgeted	+/-
Income					
7th Tradition			\$ 257.05	248	9
Committee Friends/Fundraisers					
ACYPAA			\$ -		0
Ice Cream Social			\$ -		0
Events			\$ -		0
Individual Contributions					
Anonymous		\$ 5.00	\$ 137.59	60	78
Total Friends/Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ 5.00	\$ 394.64	60	335
Group					
CAP			\$ -		0
Central Fellowship			\$ -		0
Coalinga Fellowship			\$ -		0
Downtown Newcomers			\$ -		0
Early Morning St Therese	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00		10
Kingsburg Fellowship			\$ -		0
Fresno KIS			\$ 15.00		15
LOLT			\$ 12.00		12
Minkler Group			\$ -		0
New Beginnings			\$ -		0
Outside Group	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00		60
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	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 97.00	1845	-1748
Total Income	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 491.64	2153	-1661
Expense					
Bank Fees					
Bank of America Account fees.			\$ 96.00	192	-96
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	88	-43
Area Committee					
DCM Gas			\$ 40.00	450	-410
Area Assembly					
Rooms			\$ 81.80	500	-418
Travel			\$ 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 784.58	2153	-1368
Balance	\$131.57				

Month	Income	Expenses	Total Inc/Exp
July	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
YTD	\$ 466.64	\$ 784.58	\$ (317.94)
August	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
YTD	\$ 491.64	\$ 784.58	\$ (292.94)