



THE ASSEMBLY REPORTER

GENERAL SERVICE NEWS FOR THE GROUP

**SEPTEMBER 2024
ISSUE**

SAN DIEGO - IMPERIAL
AREA 8 ASSEMBLY OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
(SDIAA)

WWW.AREA8AA.ORG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Area Inventory | 1 |
| What is the policy Committee? | 1 |
| Confessions of an A.A. Adopter | 2 |
| Hospitals and Institutions | 3 |
| Armed Services Meeting | 4 |
| Central Office Announcements | 4 |

The Assembly Reporter was written with GSR's in mind. Use this as a tool to communicate with your group!

SUBSCRIBE
Send your name, home group, district #, & service position
newsletter@area8aa.org



ENGLISH



SPANISH

AREA INVENTORY

Step Four – Made a searching and fearless moral inventory.

Self introspection and inventory is a cornerstone of our AA 12 Step program. This tool can also be applied to other aspects of AA. AA groups can hold inventories, as well as districts, and of course members of the General service structure can participate in an area inventory. San Diego Imperial Area 08 will be holding an Area inventory at our Big Day Area Assembly in Brawley on September 21. It will be a hybrid event so anyone who wants their voice to be heard can participate. Traditionally, we hold an Area inventory every two years. Our main goal is to be sure we are fulfilling our primary purpose, so we will be taking an in-depth look at what our area is currently doing and what we can do better.

Is the Area carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic? How? What can we do to improve? Are we reaching all of our members in all demographics? Does everyone feel like they are able to participate, be heard and understood? Are we listening?

There are many questions to be asked and discussions to be had. The final agenda for the day as well as the questions to be addressed are still being researched and finalized. Growth cannot be achieved until a light has been thoroughly shined into all aspects of our Area's activities and practices. No question, no voice is insignificant. Change cannot be implemented until discovery and dissection of our current procedures has occurred. Please consider participating in our Area's inventory. -Carrie E., Area Chair

WHAT IS THE POLICY COMMITTEE?

The purpose of the Policy Committee is to ensure actions taken by the Area's Districts, Committees and Assemblies are consistent with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. -Structures & Guidelines

What is my journey in service in the area? While being a DCM for District 6, I was introduced to the different committees when going to the assemblies. It is very important for me to be of service to AA since the program saved my life and gave me a spiritual life. Also, I think about people who are suffering from the disease, such as my husband Jay who died in 2003 at age 50.

I joined the Policy Committee four years ago, was always present at the meetings and became alternate chair. I just showed up to support the group and when I was the only one left, I became the chair. It was overwhelming when I would start the meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and nobody showed up. So, what do you do? You pray, ask your Higher Power for help and beautiful Carrie (Area 8 Chair) shows up! This is the miracle of AA! Now Adrian, the alternate delegate, joined us as well as Bill, a GSR. Right now, we are working on the GSR manual. The revision will be presented at the September Assembly. We try to make the text clear and easy to understand without losing content. As English is my second language, it is a challenge. However, it is a group effort and as a group we propose, review, and agree or disagree on the changes. We also review and make recommendations on flyers submitted by Districts and AA groups for inclusion on the Area website. The flyers are the fun part of the work, people are very creative with flyers but sometimes it is more about design instead of content. No problem! In a loving way we ask for changes to be sure we communicate the information well to the AA membership.

So, to be chair is a learning experience with the Traditions and the Concepts. We review and make recommendations on all aspects of Area 8; it is a lot of responsibility that we share with AA members and the help of our Higher Power. -Natalie F., Policy Committee Chair

box 459

GSO Newsletter

WWW.AA.ORG/BOX-459



[WWW.AA.ORG/
MEETING-
GUIDE-APP](http://WWW.AA.ORG/MEETING-GUIDE-APP)

OIAA
ONLINE MEETINGS
24/7

LinkedIn

Alcoholics Anonymous
A.A.W.S.

ABOUT AA
WWW.AA.ORG/
ABOUT-AA



[WWW.AAGRAPE
VINE.ORG
/PODCAST](http://WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG)

**A.A. on
YouTube**

[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
@ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSWORLDSEI373](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSWORLDSEI373)

**TEXT & AUDIO
BIG BOOK**

[WWW.AA.ORG/
THE-BIG-BOOK](http://WWW.AA.ORG/THE-BIG-BOOK)

**TEXT & AUDIO
12X12**

[WWW.AA.ORG/TWELVE-
TRADITIONS](http://WWW.AA.ORG/TWELVE-TRADITIONS)

CONFESSIONS OF AN A.A. ADOPTER – MY EXPERIENCE WITH “ONLINE A.A.”

“Hi Butch, I am hosting a Zoom meeting at 12pm. You and Sallye are invited. Zoom number is 393 949 572, and the PWD is 831480. Let me know if you are interested!

That is so cool! I’ll be “there!”

Great!

Sallye too. I was looking at the Central Office list of zoom meetings to try to find one at noon today and couldn’t find one. This is a blessing!

Oh, I didn’t know that! Perfect!

I just invited Larry and Gail!!!!

Thus began my experience of AA during the Pandemonium (my word for the pandemic). It was March 21, 2020. Mayors and governors were shutting down public gatherings, and A.A. meetings were no exception.

Zoom meetings were not my first experience of online A.A. As early as 1992 I was accustomed to logging on to a dial-up computer bulletin board system (BBS) and engaging in semi-public discourses with other A.A. members on “message boards.” Those of us who were very active in this type of fellowship began to refer to our meetings as A.A. groups. Yet, some of our trusted servants in General Service remained skeptical. My own service sponsor was of the mind that unless you could look someone in the eye and shake his hand physically, it wasn’t an A.A. group. Indeed, there was a passage in the Foreword to the Fourth Edition of the Big Book that was removed after the first printing that read, “Fundamentally, though, the difference between an electronic meeting and the home group around the corner is only one of format.” A.A.W.S., apparently, felt that this would have created an exception to the Third Tradition, adding a requirement that one must have a computer to belong to certain groups.

However, as our new environment of video chat proved, a sponsor could now look at their sponsee onscreen and see the “relative level of B.S. in his eyes,” allowing the older member to gently coax their protégé into a deeper level of honesty with himself.

It is my considered opinion that this new medium for A.A. meetings saved countless lives, and was a HUGE blessing to the Fellowship of A.A. Existing A.A. groups not only began to hold meetings online, but completely new groups which had never held a “f2f” (face-to-face) meeting, were created.

The text message interchange depicted at the beginning of this story was held between the late past-Secretary of the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly, Renée R., and me beginning at 7:26 am on that first day. She told me that she could not stay sober without the Fellowship of A.A. What Renée started that day would later become the Midday Miracles Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, with a full complement of trusted servants, including a GSR, a Coordinator, and an After Hours Phone Coordinator. Although she would leave us for the meeting in the sky in October of 2021, the legacy of love and service Renée left behind still goes on, as the group continues to meet to this day. The alcoholics who benefitted from attending Midday Miracles during that all-too-brief nineteen months before her passing are a living testament to the power of the A.A. message as shared in a new medium. But a more amazing legacy is the dozens of alcoholics who got sober in Midday Miracles, never having met her.

Renée, save me a seat. –Butch M.

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS

The intent and purpose of Hospitals and Institutions is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into facilities where people cannot otherwise get out to attend meetings and also to provide AA approved literature to those facilities. The committee's purpose is to help make 12th step work possible by maintaining relationships with institutions, provide Grapevine and AA literature, and help people transition out of facilities and into the fellowship.

But the depth and weight of my experience goes far beyond those functions. As chair, I receive emails from those members expressing their desire and willingness to carry the message. They then come to orientation, and begin to take action. Attending our monthly policy meetings, I see members who have dedicated their sobriety to this type of service. As a coordinator (a member responsible for ensuring a particular panel is "staffed"), I interact with all those who are ready to carry the message and get to help them be of service. Finally, as a panel leader and member I serve alongside so many other alcoholics, hearing their stories of experience, strength, and hope.

I recently left Las Colinas, a women's jail, quite emotional; not because of anything I did or shared but because I was struck with the awe and gratitude of what I had the privilege to witness. Our panel there is a meeting format, where one of the attendees is the leader and picks a topic. The leader shared on selfishness and self-centeredness in such an honest, open, accountable, and vulnerable way and this spirit cascaded from one woman to the next. Right before my eyes was the essence of the first and second step unfolding and I got to hear, watch and feel the power of the language of the heart.

Those women carried the message to me that day. Not every panel experience is like this, so I can't do it expecting this result. But when it happens, it somehow fills me up and humbles me in the same moment. I feel so fortunate to see our altruism from so many different angles. No matter how much I give to this particular avenue of service, it will never compare to what I receive and the appreciation I have for that grace.

Unfortunately, this is not even possible at the rest of our county facilities. We don't have coordinators or members that are cleared to go in so there are people on the inside that don't have an H&I meeting to attend. There are prisons in Area 8 with similar needs. We are also in the very early stages of creating an Outside Sponsorship Program which will need committee members and volunteers in order to function. Stay tuned! So, I ask "Who Is Responsible?" If that's you, you can reach me at sdiaic@gmail.com.

-Lauren B., H&I Chair

I AM RESPONSIBLE,
WHEN ANYONE,
ANYWHERE REACHES
OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF
A.A. ALWAYS TO BE
THERE. AND FOR
THAT:
I AM RESPONSIBLE.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST 84th Anniversary of the first AA meeting in San Diego

Date - November 2, 2024 9am - 12pm

Price - \$10 tickets on sale only at Central Office

Location - St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
6556 Park Ridge Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92120

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BIG DAY AREA ASSEMBLY

September 21, 2024
9am-4pm
890 B St,
Brawley, CA 92227

Join Zoom Meeting

9 AM - Assembly: Zoom
ID: 863 9194 1442 ~

Password: a8assembly
Meeting ID: 863 9194
1442

Passcode: a8assembly

GSR School 8 a.m. GSR
School Zoom ID: 815
2501 5257 Passcode:
2024GSR

BUDGET AREA ASSEMBLY

November 16, 2024
San Dieguito United
Methodist Church
9am-4pm
170 Calle Magdalena
Encinitas, CA 92024

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us
/j/86391941442](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86391941442)

Meeting ID: 863 9194
1442

Passcode: a8assembly.

GSR School 8 a.m. GSR
School Zoom ID: 815 2501
5257 Passcode: 2024GSR

ROOTS

November 23, 2024
12-2pm at the
Harding Community
Center, 3096 Harding
St, Carlsbad, CA
92008
Archives Committee



ARMED SERVICES MEETING

Greetings to all,

I am happy to announce that there is a new Zoom Meeting exclusively for All Active Duty Service Men and Women as well as Veterans. Veterans Helping Veterans!

This is a closed meeting for Active Members of all Services and/or Veterans to maintain the most anonymity as possible for them. Rank or time in service will not be observed during the meeting. We are all the same in the eyes of Alcoholics Anonymous. "Who we see there, What we hear there, When we leave there, LET IT STAY THERE."

I am honored to be of service to all that have sacrificed for our great country and to have the opportunity to give back to them in some way. Having served for many years myself, I understand the ups and downs of the service and the pressures that come with that service. My hope is that this platform will be of service to help members solve their common problems and help them recover from Alcoholism.

Chris S. GSR D21, Alt. Chairman Armed Services Committee
Email: ctstone0526@gmail.com

Name: Armed Services
(Closed Meeting)
Zoom ID: 878 6033 1363
Password: vet24
Thursdays 11:30am – 12:30pm

CENTRAL OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SALE!! SALE!! SALE!!** 30 percent off all books and pamphlets are free! Tell your literature people to stock up on books and pamphlets now before they go back to normal prices.
- **THE CENTRAL OFFICE ALWAYS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**
- **12 step call list volunteers needed** –This is a list of names that the people from Central Office can refer someone to who calls in for help. Sometimes the person needs someone to talk to, or someone that knows where a good meeting is in their area. to refer newcomers to that call in to the Central Office. You may specify which hours you would be available for phone calls.
- **Phone shifts** – (Once a month commitment) Volunteers always needed for after hours – people in need call in after hours and need someone to talk to. The phone number is transferred to the volunteer's cell or home phone. This trained volunteer answers questions and refers people to someone on the 12 step call list if necessary.
- **In office shifts** – Come volunteer in the North County Central Office! There is a current need for someone to volunteer on Thursdays 1-5pm.
- **Suggestions needed** – We are reaching out to the groups for suggestions of events, workshops, or ideas for ways to spend excess funds. Submit through our ASK button on our website (ncsandiegoaa.org). Here is the link: <https://ncsandiegoaa.org/suggestion-box> and address it to The Business Committee.
- For any changes to meetings or to add a meeting please call (760) 758-2514 or go to our website: <https://ncsandiegoaa.org/meetings>. Go to the specific meeting that needs updating and scroll down for the: Update meeting info box. Click the box and fill out the form.

Liz H., North County Central A.A. Office