

**District 47, CNIA
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2024**

This is a hybrid and Zoom meeting with members participating from various locations, including the Central Office in Exeter.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02 PM by District Committee Member (DCM) Mike C.

Committee members present:

Mike C., DCM and General Service Representative (GSR) for the Valley Group
Brandon L., GSR for Friday Freedom Fellowship
Dusty B., GSR for the Springville Thursday Night Gut Level Group
James W., GSR (temporary) for Bridge Street Drunks Only
Jerri T., GSR for the Saturday morning Women's 12 x 12 Bookstudy Group
Jim K., GSR for Monday Men's Meeting at PPAV
Laura B., GSR for the Springville Monday Night Book Study
Allen L., Treasurer
David G., Recording Secretary and Central Office Liaison
Jason K., filling in for Joyce R., Hospitals and Institutions Liaison.
Joshua F., Registrar
Susan F., Member

Permission requested from all present that this meeting be recorded for the recording secretary's benefit.

The GSR Preamble was read by all attendees. "We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a Loving God as he may express himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that the groups can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups and A.A. as a whole."

12 Traditions: read by Jim K.

Concept 3: Concept 4 long form read and explained by Mike C.

Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2024, minutes reviewed. Approval of minutes vote taken: all in favor, none against.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance Forward	\$2,777.52
Income	
Porterville Loose Women's Meeting	\$22.50
Springville Book Study	\$60.00
Individual Contribution	\$11.52
Total Income	\$85.02

Expenses \$0.00

Current Balance \$2,871.54

Now that Allen has stepped up, there's going to be the issue of who are the new signers for the district's account? I believe it will be Allen, David, and Mike who will handle the new account. As the only remaining signer, I am the only one who can close the Chase account. Once a new account is established, I will proceed to close the old account and transfer the funds according to the district's decision regarding banking.

CSO Liaison Report: David G. Our March CSR Meeting was held in the 12th. The meeting was a hybrid meeting, with three members joining via Zoom and eleven people present in-person.

Central Office finances: for December 21 through January 20, Central Office had income of \$3,893 and expenses of \$3,910 for a loss of \$16.

George is our PI (Public Information) and CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) board member; he found twelve events we can present at.

Cody is our BTG (Bridging The Gap) board member; he had four people at our monthly meeting. We're going to do a small presentation at the Spring Into Sobriety event.

Old business:

1. Founders Day Picnic (FDP): We had our first planning meeting: two people showed up.
2. Unity Event Committee: Cody is getting prices for bowling.

New business:

1. We will do the Responsibility Statement in closing the meeting.
2. Communication preferences: The board members prefer doing a group chat on text messaging and the CSRs prefer to get email.
3. The meeting format for the Founder's Day Picnic will be determined by the FDP planning committee.
4. CSR reports will be run past the CSR prior to publishing them in the minutes and newsletter.

Registrar: No activity this month.

H&I Report: Jason K. on behalf of Joyce R., Tulare County Hospital & Institution Committee Liaison

The only purpose of the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee is to carry the message of AA to alcoholics in Corrections and Treatment facilities and facilities serving alcoholics in Northern CA. Here in Tulare County (Area 93), we do this by conducting AA meetings in the facilities we serve. Currently, we hold 17 meetings monthly in 7 facilities and Tulare County Jail, utilize approximately 35 volunteers and distribute an average of 80 AA Books (Big Book, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Daily Reflections and Living Sober in English and Spanish) per month along with Grapevines and La Vina. AA members from Tulare County also hold meetings at Corcoran, SATF and Avenal Prisons.

We are fully supported by funds from passing the pink cans at AA meetings from Tulare County to the Oregon Border established in 1957. Prior to 1957, H&I volunteers had to either provide the literature for the H&I meetings themselves or beg it from their groups, often stretching the groups' funds beyond their ability to pay for other AA services. Today, passing the pink can allows the Northern California H&I Committee the blessing of literature to share with our inside members at the approximately 25,200 meetings held in 2023 and have literature expenditures of \$471,400, thus supporting AAWS as one of the largest purchasers of literature.

At times, we hear, "H&I is not part of AA". It is true that NorCal H&I is not part of the General Service Structure. We operate as an AA service entity, governed by the Twelve Traditions, and based on the spiritual principles embodied within the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are "directly responsible to those we serve" as outlined in the ninth tradition, which is the AA fellowship of Northern California. This is the same manner a Central Office operates. Central Offices are not part of the General Service Structure but are an AA service entity, "directly responsible to those they serve" as outlined in the ninth tradition. Here in Tulare County, we support our Central office through 7th Tradition contributions. H&I is supported completely by passing the pink cans at meetings. In H&I we are entirely grateful that we operate as one committee, all pink can funds are sent to San Francisco and then literature is distributed back to the areas as needed. In 2023 Tulare County and the Prisons distributed \$21,000 in literature while our Tulare County pink can contributions were \$7,300. It is our hope that this information will be shared with groups to encourage passing of the pink cans in Tulare County.

To continue to grow, we need more volunteers. Please share this with your groups and send any interested volunteers to our next orientation: May 11, 2024; 9:00 am; at 526 N. Bridge Street, Visalia, CA 93291. This information is also listed on the Tulare County Website at aa-tulareco.org

In Service,

Jason K., Area 93 H&I Co-Chair

DCM Report: Mike C.

Last month, Mike met with District 55 members to finalize a post-conference assembly flyer. Registration for the post-conference assembly is now open on cna.org. Actual flyers can be found on the central office website and should be attached to the May 18th-19th post-conference registration link. Members may stay near Coalinga if interested, as there are nearby hotels by the Harris Ranch Restaurant.

The upcoming meeting on April 18th aims to discuss volunteers for setup, snack bar, and registration. Volunteers are needed for setting up and cleaning up; we are requested to contribute to snack costs. Profits will be divided between contributors.

In late March, Mike held an agenda items workshop in Visalia upon discovering no responses from District 47 GSRs regarding planned workshops. Also attended were meetings in Clovis and online (ACM), reporting on District 47 and the post-conference assembly.

Registration for the pre-conference assembly in Denair took place on April 6th, during which Mike presented feedback gathered from Visalia and Tulare County members. Participants are invited to check the District 47 Agenda Items, Workshop Meeting Notes for accuracy and suggest corrections before April 5th. This document will be updated accordingly. That concludes my report. Thanks.

Questions:

The post-conference assembly, is that in May? Yes, May 18th and 19th. Where is it located? In

Huron. This week's assembly is where? Denair. Fun fact: I went to high school at Denair High in 1986, 1987 – my junior and senior years.

GSR Reports:

Jim K., GSR for the Monday Night Men's Stag at PPAV Hall in Visalia: At our recent meeting, we discussed two key topics: creating an Instagram account, supported by our group, and reconsidering ongoing financial support for La Vina, given its significant losses over the past three years. Upon voting, we chose not to fund La Vina further due to fiscal concerns. These decisions have been communicated to DCM Mike via email. Additionally, we elected a new CSR named Wil. Thank you.

Jerri T., GSR for the Saturday morning Women's 12 by 12 study group in Visalia: our group organizes a women's retreat, scheduled for October 11th – 13th at Saint Anthony's in Three Rivers. We kindly request that groups consider donating baskets for a raffle or silent auction. Plans are underway to organize a mixed-gender Sponsor-Sponsee event in Tulare County during July. Although specific dates have yet to be determined, interested individuals are welcome to join us. This event aims to function as a helpful fundraising initiative supporting our upcoming women's retreat. Regarding votes, multiple subjects sparked intense discussions. The questions that were put out triggered extensive exchanges. Deliberations surrounding a plain and simple Big Book edition: nobody wanted that. Only two attendees favored the idea, whereas eighteen others expressed disagreement. Opposition extended to social media utilization due to challenges controlling content distribution and difficulty remaining anonymous amidst tracking mechanisms inherent to social media platforms. Ultimately, the majority rejected social media involvement. Unfortunately, as a recently appointed GSR, I cannot attend the pre-conference assembly this weekend due to prior engagements. I have conveyed my information to the delegate.

Dusty B., GSR for the Springville Thursday Night Gut Level Group: after some discussion, the group is not in favor of a new English translation of the Big Book into plain and simple language. Some people feel that they weren't informed on it; I think part of that was because we haven't had a General Service Rep for quite a while. The group is not really doing anything as far as actively having any fundraisers or anything of that nature. We do have, on the last Thursday of the month, a birthday dinner where most of us go to the restaurant and then come back to the meeting and celebrate birthdays on the last Thursday.

Dusty B., filling in for Laura B., GSR for the Springville Monday Night Book Study: the group is not in favor of the plain and simple language Big Book. It's pretty much the same people, for the same reason. We did not discuss Instagram in either group, so I don't have an answer on that. But I will bring that up to them Thursday night. We'll discuss that further and I will see you up in Denair. Thanks.

James W., GSR (temporary) for Bridge Street Drunks Only: we are currently waiting for a permanent GSR, but I wanted Bridge Street to be represented at District 47. Bridge Street has a policy that you can only hold one service position, and I'm also the business secretary. We had a business meeting this past Saturday where we discussed the items from the workshop at the Alano Club. Bridge Street is strictly against changing the Big Book's content, but they were in favor of the stories in the back changing in the printing of the fifth edition. They were also against the plain and simple language change. On Saturday, Bridge Street is hosting a Primary Purpose 12 Step Workshop at Saint Paul's as part of the Spring Into Sobriety event. We are in need of a permanent GSR since Ralph left. Bridge Street conducted a group conscious, and I was appointed temporarily. I emphasized that we can only have one service position, but someone is interested in the position. The commitment is for two years, and I have been attending different meetings to find a suitable candidate. In summary, I am doing my best as the temporary GSR and relaying messages back to Bridge Street. We are actively searching for a permanent GSR and hope to find a suitable candidate

soon.

Old Business:

Open Alternate DCM position. No volunteers at this time.

New Business:

1. Discuss opening a new bank account. Allen met with representatives from Bank of the Sierra and Bank of America in Exeter. Bank of America has a \$16 monthly fee, while Bank of the Sierra offers a free account unless paper statements are requested, which would incur a \$2 monthly fee. My recommendation is to open an account at Bank of the Sierra due to their friendly and easy-to-deal-with approach. They provided paperwork for the three signers' information. Allen will need documentation from the secretary that he is the treasurer. So we want a copy of the minutes and a copy of our bylaws. I was told to make sure that our minutes and our bylaws are identified by the same title as we want to open the account with. Our current account is "District 47, CNIA". Motion was made by Allen to move forward and do what we need to do as the three officers, David, Mike, and I, to satisfy whatever requirement there is to open the account, and we'll proceed and open a new account at the Bank of the Sierra. Dusty seconded. Vote taken: all approved, none against.

2. Discuss creating a subcommittee to review and update our bylaws. Bylaws were found and reviewed: there is no need to update them at this time.

3. Discuss providing funds for the Post-Conference Assembly in Huron to purchase snacks, drinks, and ice cream w/toppings for Ice Cream Social on Saturday night. (Not to exceed \$300.00). Allen moved to allocate no more than \$300 to commit to purchase snacks, drinks, and ice cream in conjunction with District 55. Jerri seconded. Vote was taken: all in favor, none against.

At this point in the meeting, Spectrum Internet flaked out, and the In-Person Zoom session in the Central Office froze and had to be worked around.

4. Discussed the Area 7 Archives rental location, and rent increase. Discussion for four minutes. The idea was put forward that we need to trust our trusted servants to find a new location at a reasonable cost. Question was put to the meeting: do we have support for this as a group? Vote was taken: all approved, with none against.

5. Need a couple volunteers for Post-Conference Assembly (May 17th set up, May 18th registration/snacks, May 19th snacks and clean up). If anybody's interested, they don't have to be a GSR. They can be a member of AA in our fellowship. Let me (Mike) know and I'll let them carpool with me up there to help set up on May 17th. That's where we'll be needing to set up chairs and tables, putting up the tents on each of the tables with the district flags and then any of the tables and backdrops for the archives and different H&I and general service, Literature, Grapevine and La Vina tables. We need one or two volunteers to assist with registration, specifically for English-speaking attendees. This is because some Spanish-speaking groups have members who are only fluent in Spanish and not bilingual. While a few members are bilingual, having additional English speakers would be beneficial for registration purposes.

6. Agenda Items DCM workshop feedback from March 24, meeting notes: I don't want to go into a bunch of details, but I want to thank those that did participate uh in my email all to everyone. I did my best at capturing the majority of what everyone was in favor of and not in favor, and in people's comments. This is what I'll be sharing at the Pre Conference Assembly for District 47 for those that are unable to attend. I'll share our district's feedback to our delegate.

7. Discuss reimbursing Mike C \$20 for pizza for Agenda Item Workshop March 24, 2024: Mike bought two Costco pizzas for the Agenda Item Workshop at the Alano Club. Dusty moved to reimburse Mike the \$20. Allen seconded the motion. Vote was taken: all in favor, none against.

Announcements:

Pre-Conference Assembly April 6-7 2024, Denair, CA. Mike and Brandon are carpooling up.

Central Office Founder's Day Picnic, June 8 in Mooney Grove Park. Planning committee meetings are every two weeks, Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM, either in-person at Central Office or on Zoom.

Spring into Sobriety by The Valley Speaker Series Group, April 6th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Visalia. The 12 Step Workshop is at 11 AM, dinner begins at 5:30 PM, with the speaker, Yvonne S. from Los Angeles, at 7:00 PM.

Central Office Unity Day – Bowling event (TBD)

Discussion:

Jerri: There does not appear to be a lot of time between when the Agenda Items are released by New York, and the Pre-Conference Assembly immediately prior to the General Service Conference in New York. Mike: I shared the information at our February meeting and also at our March meeting: I said that the agenda items were going to be posted on the delegates page on cnia.org. Those got released February 19th or 20th. Jerri: Okay, I think the problem is that I was a new GSR then, and I wasn't on the mailing list when you first put it out. Josh: I want to just add that, the board typically decides the agenda items in December or January, which creates a tight timeframe for communication within the fellowship. Even when Mike performs his job flawlessly, the process remains challenging for everyone involved. So, the difficulty isn't necessarily due to being new; rather, it's a result of the demanding nature of the communication process.

Responsibility Declaration: Read by all "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."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David G., Recording Secretary