

District 47, CNIA

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 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
Jim K., GSR for Monday Men's Meeting at PPAV
Laura B., GSR for the Springville Monday Night Book Study
Leah W., GSR (new) for Bridge Street Drunks Only
Sean A., GSR for Practicing the Principles
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

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 David G.

Concept 5: Concept 5 long form read and explained by Mike C.

Approval of Minutes: April 3, 2024, minutes reviewed. Jason moved to approve the minutes. A vote was taken: all in favor, none against.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance Forward	\$2,871.54
Income	
Crossroads Group	\$50.00
Tuesday Women's Amity Group	\$57.74
Springville Gut Level Group	\$25.00
Practicing The Principles Group	\$20.00
Total Income	\$152.74
Expenses	

DCM travel for Pre-Conference Assembly	\$175.00
Workshop pizza	\$20.00
Total Expenses	\$195.00
Current Balance	\$2,829.28

Allen opened a new account at Bank of the Sierra, here in Exeter, and ordered some new checks. Allen still has some signed checks from Chase, which he can use until Josh closes that account.

CSO Liaison Report: David G.

Our April CSR Meeting was held on April 9th. The meeting was a hybrid meeting, both in-person and on Zoom.

Central Office finances: for February 21 through March 20, Central Office had income \$3,238.35 and expenses of \$4,356.79 for a loss of \$1,118.44.

George is our PI (Public Information) and CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) chairman, and has a volunteer providing pamphlets to Doctor's offices and health clinics. May 5th will be Senior Day in the Park (Mooney's Grove) and usually has very large attendance. Do we want to have a booth? If so, we will need volunteers.

Cody is our BTG (Bridging The Gap) chairman, and instead of our monthly meeting, we did a small presentation at the Spring Into Sobriety 2024 event: we picked up two more volunteers. Cody and I met with three staff members at Tulare County Sheriff's Office, and will begin BTG work with people in the RSAT program in July.

Old business:

1. John W and David G are the chairpersons for the Founders Day Picnic, June 8th, 2024 at Mooney's Grove Park, Arbor 9. We have had two more planning meetings, and our list of volunteers is growing. Planning meetings are every other Wednesday at 7 PM, in-person and on Zoom.
2. Unity Event Committee: Cody is getting pricing options for bowling.

New business:

1. We are thinking about moving the CSR meeting one hour earlier, beginning in June. So, instead of the CSR meeting starting at 7 PM, it would start at 6 PM. We want feedback from our members before we make this change: the decision will be at the May 14th CSR meeting.

Announcements:

Founders Day Picnic June 8th
 Sunday Speaker Breakfast May 12th
 3C2A Roundup in Fresno May 3rd & 4th

Registrar: I've made contact with the Area Registrar, and she is going to follow up with stuff.

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

May 2024 Report

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. We held 12 meetings in treatment facilities and expanded our meetings at Tulare County Jail to include a Spanish-speaking meeting. We were able to distribute over 100 AA books with the help of 27 volunteers. Our efforts are fully supported by funds collected from passing the pink cans at AA meetings from Tulare County to the Oregon Border as established in 1957. All money collected is sent to San Francisco. Areas and major institution coordinators request literature as needed for their meetings. This is purchased from AA World Service using the pink can funds collected. Please share this information with your groups. Encourage all groups to please pass the pink cans and have the group's treasurer send the money to the address on the pink cans on a regular basis. If your group does not have a pink can please contact Central Office, Joyce or myself, and we'll get your group a pink can.

The first ever California H&I Conference, which is a collaborative effort of Southern and Northern California H&I communities, will be held May 3rd through 5th in Bakersfield. There is an attached flyer which is also available at the Tulare County AA website. We are in need of volunteers for the Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service program (IVSS). IVSS matches outside AA sponsors with inside members at several prisons. Attached is a flyer to share with any interested AA members.

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, followed by our business meeting at 10 a.m. 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.

This past month, I attended a pre-conference assembly in Denair, California, on April 7th and 8th, accompanied by Brandon and Dusty. We participated in group consciousness discussions, which took some time as everyone provided input. I contributed insights from the agenda items workshop and the Men's Stag. Thanks to Jim for sending the email.

I also met with pre-conference district members to discuss their experiences with setup, snack bar, decorating, and volunteer requirements. They reported needing about 15 people to set up the night before, and approximately 8 to 10 volunteers to rotate throughout the day for the snack bar. However, more volunteers were needed for serving dinner.

I gathered this information and shared it with our area vice-chair Emily, who introduced me to the pre-conference assembly's treasurer. He provided an Excel spreadsheet detailing costs for dinner and snack bar items. We used this template to create a worksheet for our group, which showed a total cost of around \$650 for food purchases. Our group will contribute \$300, with the rest covered by other participants.

I met with District 55 and filled out the Excel spreadsheet together, discussing snack bar items and dinner plans. The caterer, who has a restaurant business, will submit a finalized item list to the treasurer for reimbursement. I also have access to online registrations, which showed 39 registrations for the post-conference assembly so far, with most purchasing dinner. The pre-conference assembly had approximately 85 in-person registrations, which affected our dinner cost estimates.

We are seeking additional volunteers from District 47 to help with the snack bar and serving food during the assembly. My fiancé will assist with registration, and we'll continue looking for more volunteers. Our next meeting will be to take inventory of supplies and finalize materials needed for the conference. The final post-conference subcommittee meeting will be on May 16th to confirm details such as lanyards, registration, and dinner head counts.

I did get a final head count for the pre-conference assembly, which had over 225 attendees. For the post-conference assembly, we may expect around 200 participants, though this number could be slightly lower as many people attend pre-conference to give the Group Consciousness report.

That concludes my report. Thanks.

Questions:

(Brandon) Did you happen to find out what they made on the, the snack bar? (Mike) No, but they will report that at the post-conference assembly.

GSR Reports:

Dusty B., GSR for the Springville Thursday Night Gut Level Group: I mentioned that our group would be assisting District 55 with the post-conference workshop. There was some pushback regarding why we were stepping outside our district to help with the event. I didn't have an immediate answer to this, and I'm not sure if anyone else has addressed it further. Apart from that, our meeting is doing well, and we have made contributions to other entities while continuing to move forward. (Mike) Thanks, Dusty. I can provide an update on that. In the past, there was an election assembly where we bid for the assemblies in 2025. Unfortunately, our district did not win any bids. In January, Claudio, the chair at the time, approached me during a meeting in Sacramento and suggested that we assist the Spanish-speaking group, as they had taken over the post-conference assembly after another Fresno County group was unable to host it. Due to the limited number of members and the majority being Spanish-speakers, they needed assistance from English-speaking volunteers.

I discussed this with Simon, the DCM for District 55, and we agreed to collaborate in organizing the post-conference assembly. Any profits generated from the snack bar will be split equally between our districts. For example, if the snack bar generates \$1,500 in revenue and our combined costs amount to \$650, we will split the remaining \$850.

(Dusty) good. I could take that back to the group. Thank you.

(Allen) It is also kind of geographical, isn't it? Because they're down here on the south end of the valley too.

(Mike) Yes, District 55 includes both District 49 and District 42. I recently sent out some documents, including a PDF titled "CNIA Southern Districts," which shows the boundaries of the districts within District 55. District 47 and District 49 are part of District 55. The newly elected DCM for District 49 has a smaller group and is actively recruiting volunteers. The three of us are collaborating to gather volunteers to assist with the snack bar, registration, cleanup, and setup for the event.

(Dusty) Well, the question was brought to me and I had no answers. So thank you for giving me that information.

(Mike) It's becoming more normal now for pre-conference assemblies and post-conference assemblies to be hosted by multiple districts. For instance, the last meeting and pre-conference assembly were co-hosted by District 34 and District 36. Similarly, next year's event in Northern California, in Redding, will be hosted by District 9 and District 10 or 12. I don't recall which, but we're seeing more districts collaborating.

Sean A., GSR for Practicing the Principles: There's not much to report. I shared feedback from the group consciousness that was discussed at the pre-conference assembly. Attendees were generally supportive of the consensus reached during the Alano Club meeting and had few questions. There hasn't been a significant demand for additional information at the district level, so I'll take that as a good sign. When we ask our groups if they want us to purchase water or candy, should we ask for money or let them pass a basket for the items?

(Mike) They can either pass a basket for donations or specify what they want us to buy. We'll get the items from Smart and Final or Costco.

(Sean) If they prefer to handle the shopping themselves, would that make it easier for you?

(Mike) Either way is fine. I'll send an email tonight. We also need volunteers.

(Sean) Are these snacks for general support or for the snack bar items that will be sold?

(Mike) There are two options. We can collect money for snacks on tables for attendees from different groups, and also for an ice cream social. Donations will cover ice cream, toppings, cups, and cones.

(Sean) So, both sides. Ok, great. Appreciate it. Thanks.

Jim K., GSR for Monday Men's Meeting at PPAV: I represent the Monday night Men's Stag at the PPAV Hall in Visalia, which takes place from 7:30 to 9 PM. It's a big group, with recovery people from Robertson and Pine. The meeting has a fresh mix of individuals, including both newcomers and those with long-term sobriety. The group has been supportive of having their voice heard and appreciates the message shared at the pre-conference assembly. Thank you, Mike, for carrying that message. The group is always willing to help. If there's a need for a financial commitment from them for the post-conference assembly, please let me know, and I can bring it to them.

(Mike) We're looking to see if any of the fellowships are interested in contributing water, drinks, or snacks for attendees, including table candies. If your group donates funds, we'll accept their contributions.

(Jim) Yes, many groups create baskets for events like the June picnic. This group will be contributing a basket as well. I haven't incurred any travel expenses, and there's a budget for the GSR role. This contribution could help GSRs and general service in general. The meeting is strong, with around 50 attendees sometimes. It's a good choice for men seeking a solid Monday night meeting.

Laura B., GSR for the Springville Monday Night Book Study: My group is similar to the Thursday night meeting. I represent the Springville book study group, which takes place from 7 to 8 PM on Monday nights. It's a small meeting, typically attended by around eight people, many of whom also attend the gut level meeting Dusty mentioned. A question arose regarding why we're assisting instead of the usual helpers. However, you already addressed that concern. I'll be happy to ask the group if they're willing to donate.

(Mike) Thanks. I'll include an update in the next intergroup newsletter, a DCM Report, so people throughout Tulare County to read it. This way, the information isn't limited to those within our room.

(Laura) I have a question about the volunteers for the post-conference assembly: how many hours do you want them or are they going to be doing registration or snack bar or what?

(Mike) If you'd like to volunteer for registration, you'll be needed from around 10 AM until about 2 PM on Saturday. If you'd like to help with the snack bar, we'll need around four or five people. We'll be selling hot dogs with chips and a drink, nachos with cheese and chili, Mexican bread (pan dulce), fruits, candy bars, energy drinks, sodas, and water.

(Laura) Alright. So, regarding the snack bar volunteers, how many hours would you need them to commit if they help with the event?

(Mike) Like a four-hour shift?

Brandon L., GSR for Friday Freedom Fellowship: I represent the Friday Freedom Fellowship. Our group recently celebrated birthday milestones, with over 100 years of combined sobriety. Six members were honored, including

Leah, who celebrated two years, and others with significant time. The meeting is growing steadily, and we've seen increased consistency and member involvement. I will take the announcement to help support the post-conference assembly.

James W., GSR (temporary) for Bridge Street Drunks Only: This last Saturday at the business meeting, Leah was appointed as the permanent GSR for the Bridge Street Drunks Only group. She will be responsible for providing the GSR report to the group. We discussed the Founder's Day picnic and Unity Day events. Leah qualified for the GSR position, as she has two years of sobriety. From now on, Leah is it.

Old Business:

1. Bank Account Update. Allen provided the update under the Treasurer's Report.
2. Volunteers for Post-Conference Assembly (May 18th snack bar, May 19th snacks and clean up. Volunteers were discussed during GSR Reports.

New Business:

1. Discuss approving funds for GSRs and DCM to attend Post-Conference Assembly: Registration, Food, and Hotel.
 - Discussion to fund DCM \$225 to attend the Post-Conference Assembly. Brandon moved, James seconded. Vote taken: all in favor, none against.
 - Discussion to help GSRs who represent a group which cannot fully fund their GSR to attend the Post-Conference Assembly. Decision to cap the amount to \$150, on a case-by-case basis. Mike moved, Brandon seconded. Vote taken: all in favor, none against.
2. Discuss Post Conference Activities:
 - What topics do you want to have panels on at upcoming assemblies?
 - Leah proposed the Four Absolutes.
 - Mike proposed funding GSRs who cannot attend assemblies.
 - Josh proposed asking How does the agenda for the General Service Conference get constructed?
 - Why do we get such a short period of time to discuss agenda items before the General Service Conference?
 - Do you want to do round table discussions?
 - No decision one way or the other.
 - Other than panels, is there something you'd like to do/talk about at our assemblies?
 - *Referred back to the first topic "What topics do you want to have panels on at upcoming assemblies?"*
 - Any fun game ideas (speed fellowship for example)
 - David had seen this at NCCAA, and it was fun.
 - Anything else... maybe there's a brilliantly creative idea we've never tried that would really benefit your GSRs
3. Update on Regional Discussion for District Involvement and consideration of combining districts.
 - Mike discussed the problem that some districts do not have enough participation. They may request to combine districts to cover more people within a district.
4. Discuss allocating funds to print documents amount not to exceed \$100 through end of the year.
 - Central Office has said that we should pay 20¢ per page for printing / photocopies.
 - This will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

Announcements:

State-wide H&I Conference in Bakersfield May 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

Bluesfest, put on by Narcotics Anonymous, will be in Three Rivers, May 18th and 19th.

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 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David G., Recording Secretary