

Motion: It is hereby moved to make the following amendment to the CNIA - 07 Committee Structure to add a funded Appointed Chair Position for an Accessibilities Committee with a budgeted amount of \$2900/year.

Purpose

The purpose of the Area Accessibilities Committee is to explore, develop and offer resources that assist districts and groups in carrying the A.A. message of recovery, and supports full participation in our program and in its service structure, to all alcoholics who encounter **any** barrier to such participation including but not limited to physical, mental, geographic, economic, cultural, service and/or other access barriers.

Scope

The Accessibilities Committee will serve as an **information and resource hub** to support the Area's districts and groups regarding potential accessibility barriers faced by current and prospective AA members; it will seek to build unity through collaboration with districts and groups in identifying access barriers and potential solutions to eliminate those barriers; it will seek to fulfill its purpose through the following scope of activities:

- *To inform the membership regarding accessibility issues and methods via workshops, panels, presentations, roundtables, etc., to ensure the greatest possible access for all AA members.*
- *To assist districts and groups in identifying accessibilities issues/needs (beyond correct ID in meeting schedule) that exist within the district and/or its meetings and that hinder or prevent an alcoholic from full participation in the AA program of recovery.*
- *To assist in updating and confirming lists of accessible meetings.*
- *To provide resources and coordinate the efforts of volunteers*
- *To assist the Area, districts and groups in providing online and hybrid access to the AA program of recovery and service opportunities, a STRONG need in CNIA -07's rural and more remote communities, in particular.*
- *To assist people with access barriers and/or disabilities at conventions, conferences, service weekends, service meetings, special events, etc.*
- *To facilitate communication among Intergroups/Central Offices, Districts, groups and volunteers to help members with accessibility issues.*
- *To provide a place for shared experience when people overcome access barriers and, in turn, seek to pass it on through the work of the Accessibility Committee.*
- *To explore, develop and implement ever new ways to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

Background

At the CNIA Post-Conference Assembly **in May 2023**, the Northern CA Accessibilities Committee (NCAC) invited CNIA to take over the work of Accessibilities.

At the CNIA Winter Assembly **in January 2024**, the possibility of an Accessibilities Committee was introduced under New Business. During the **March ACM**, a Round Table discussion was held among DCMs and GSRs on Accessibilities, and a guest gave a presentation on online groups as part of this larger topic.

Stemming from the interest generated in accessibilities over the previous few months, and coinciding with the formal dissolution of the Northern California Accessibilities Committee (NCAC), an Accessibilities Interest Group (AIG) formed **in April 2024** with monthly online meetings dedicated to discussing creating an Area Accessibilities Committee and hearing from those currently engaged in Accessibilities service work in other areas.

At the CNIA Post-Conference Assembly **in May 2024**, there was an Accessibilities Panel on Saturday that was well received and an Accessibilities Topic under Old Business on Sunday to see if Area -07 wanted to form an Accessibilities Committee. The membership responded positively with a desire to know more about Accessibilities and what such a committee might do.

In June 2024, the AIG created a flyer in both English and Spanish, which the Area posted to its website and listed the recurring monthly AIG meeting online in the Events section of the website. The AIG monthly meeting featured two guest speakers:

- Benjamin D53 (Fresno), 03/15/2017, Grupo de inicio "Solo por hoy" - Accessibilities Presentation (Spanish w/ English interpretation)
- Scott S. D70 Accessibilities Committee Chair, Area 51 (Asheville, NC), 06/04/1987 - Hosting an Accessibilities Committee at the District Level

In July 2024, AIG engaged in email outreach to Central Offices and Intergroups within the Area that included the AIG English and Spanish Flyers with a request to list the monthly AIG online meeting within the Events sections of their websites and (where possible) to include the Flyer(s) in their newsletters. AIG also submitted sample questions pertaining to Accessibilities to the CNIA - 07 Alt Chair for consideration as part of the Area Inventory questions under discussion for selection by the sub-committee for the Area Inventory at the Mini-PRAASA in Angels Camp in October. The AIG monthly meeting welcomed a guest speaker:

- Renea Cole - Area 08 Accessibilities - the Gold Can and other Accessibilities efforts (**10 mins**)

In August 2024, a couple of AIG members held a brainstorming session to begin generating the outline of a Motion to Form an Accessibilities Committee to be presented at the Area Fall Assembly | Mini-PRAASA in October. On August 12, AIG member and DCM (Gayle S., D11) forwarded an email from the group to DCMs and GSRs reminding all of the AIG and encouraging participation. AIG Flyers in English

and Spanish were again attached. At the August AIG monthly meeting, the nine members present (three new members first time attending) worked collaboratively on the Motion.

In September 2024, the Draft Motion was put into narrative form and returned to the AIG members for review prior to the monthly meeting on September 29th, during which time it was finalized for presentation at the Fall Assembly (Mini-PRASASA) in Angels Camp.

In October 2024, AIG created a brief five-question Accessibilities survey for consideration by members to be shared at the Fall Assembly. The Survey was created in paper form with a QR Code (link) to an electronic online format for easy completion and submission. Surveys can be completed and returned without name, but AIG did request District # and service role identification.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curtis D.
Alt DCM, District 22