



## Monterey and San Benito Counties Area Service Committee

Meeting Minutes      August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

1. Meeting Start: 6:45PM
2. Chair, Diego, opens the meeting with serenity prayer. Cole reads 12 traditions. Mika reads 12 concepts.
3. Diego reads the opening statement.
4. Kevin reads the purpose of the area service committee.
5. Kevin reads what a GSR is and their duties
6. Introduction to new GSRs and Visitors
  - a. John Paul - Visitor
  - b. Michelle - Visitor
  - c. Mika - New GSR
  - d. Timothius - New GSR for friday night staying alive
7. Milestones
  - a. Aaron - 4 Years!
  - b. Kristina - 7 Years!
  - c. Kevin - 37 Years!
8. Approval of Minutes
  - a. No minutes to approve, Kristina will complete the minutes by next month.
9. Additions to Agenda
  - a. No additions

10. Roll Call - General Service Representatives (GSRs) Check In: See Attendance/Roll Call in google drive

## 11. Area Service Committee Reports

- a. Chair: Diego: shares report (see google drive)
- b. Vice Chair: Kevin: no report
- c. Recording secretary: Kristina - shares report (see google drive)
- d. Treasurer: Anne shares report (see google drive)

1. Assistant treasurer is stepping down

- e. Literature: Raichel shares report (see google drive)

- a. John Paul - "So, the order form — is it different than what's on the website? Will the new one be different?"

1. Raichel - "It will just have one thing added to it. The prices will all stay the same. The only new item is the NA Survival Kit — the one we all took back to our groups to decide whether or not it should be added for meetings to purchase. Most groups said yes — at least, that's the feedback I got. I guess I forgot to bring it to the Area body, but it's good to know that they're wanted. I'm happy to add them. So, it'll just be one added line, so when people see the full order form during their group business meetings, they'll see something like: 'NA Survival Kit - \$22' and can say, 'Cool, we want two of those.'"

2. John Paul - "'Okay, I'll include this in my report. I do have access to the website, and there is an order form on there — so if it needs to be updated, just email it to the Monterey web person.'"

3. Raichel - "Okay. Is it the Excel version — the one where you can input quantities and it calculates the totals for you?"

4. John Paul - "I think it's a PDF"

5. Raichel - "Melissa M. created an Excel version where you can type in how many books, keytags, IPs, etc. you want, and it automatically adds everything up — including tax — though the tax is calculated out to the thousandths place, so it's slightly off.

A few groups already use that version. They just print it out and bring it to me.

The only real difference I've noticed is that the printed Excel form rounds to the nearest cent, so it's off by a few cents when I total it myself.

But again, I didn't create it — it's just another way to submit orders.

You can also email your order forms to me if you're not going to be at the meeting. I can put the order together and you can pick it up later.

It's just another convenient way to order — instead of showing up and filling out the form in person, you can access everything on the website."

- f. RCM 1: No Report - Position Available
- g. RCM 2: Not Present

## 12. Subcommittee Reports

### a. H&I: Nick shares report (See Google Drive)

1. Lewis - "Our next Pig Roast meeting is this Wednesday night at the church — that's the 13th. Yeah, you're right, the flyer said the 16th, but it's actually the 13th.

So, this Wednesday night at the Methodist Church at 6 o'clock."

2. Unknown member- "I have money for tickets that I've sold. Where can I turn that in?"

3. Nick - "I'd recommend contacting Misha — she's the Chair and she coordinated everything.

I wouldn't feel comfortable telling you who to give the money to and possibly being wrong.

If you need her contact info, let me know and I'll get it to you."

### b. PI/PR: John Paul shares report (see google drive)

1. Kristina - "Do you want me to send you all the flyers that have come out over the last couple of months so you have them? They're in the flyer bin — and yes, they've all been approved."

2. John Paul - ""As long as they've been approved, go ahead and send them to me — I'll post them.

Also, I'm not sure if I mentioned this, but once the minutes are approved, make sure to email them to the Monterey web person. I'll post those on the website as well."

### c. Activities: Lawrence shares report (see google drive)

1. John Paul - "I actually forgot to mention something earlier — about the website. The credit card currently on file is Scott's.

From what I understand, we now have an NA credit card. Is that correct — something we can use?"

2. Anne - "Yes, the Treasurer has a credit card for NA."

3. John Paul - "Could that be used to pay for the website hosting, so it's charged properly?"

4. Anne - "Yes, absolutely. You just need to give me the information — who to pay, and the billing details."

5. John Paul - "Great. The current card is probably still valid for another year — I think it was just renewed.

But I'd like to get it switched over, just so everything's being handled properly.

Also, another thing: the website isn't secure right now. If you go to it, you might see a security warning. That's why I'd like to update the information — so I can order or purchase an SSL certificate.

That way, the site will be secure and users won't get that message. It's just good practice to have it.

That's all I've got."

d. Talent Show: Postponed until October 2025.

e. MBCNA Chair: Tish - shares report (see google drive)

1. Aaron - "Is that just from this last cycle?"

2. Tish - "The Board has asked that the Area Chair submit a written request for any past convention information that's needed.

They're asking for a formal, specific request. So far, they haven't received anything from either the Area or the Region."

3. Aaron - "I went to the meeting and requested it."

4. Tish - "You went to the NBC Subcommittee meeting — not the Board meeting.

The Board holds all the archives. They're asking for a written request from Diego, outlining exactly what is needed. Once they have that, they'll provide the information."

5. Ken - "When is the board meeting for this?"

6. Tish - "I'll have to get back to you on that. I don't have the exact date, but the Board meets about every two months, usually on an alternate Saturday, and the meeting starts at 1:00 PM.

I'll find out and let you know the date of the next meeting."

7. Lewis - "Do you have a time and place for the October 25th Post-Ring Day event?"

8. Tish - "Yes — it's going to be at Toro Park. I believe it starts at 12:00.

There will be different spots marked off, and all that info will be on the flyer."

9. Lewis - "Got it — I've got it right here."

f. Women's Brunch: Bryan shares report for Melissa (see google drive)

1. Kristina - "Anne, do we get the nonprofit number from you?"

2. Anne - "What do they need it for?"

3. Bryan - "The Women's Brunch Chair is asking for it so they can request a fee waiver for the event."

4. Anne - "See me after the meeting — I think what they actually need is the seller's permit."

g. Outreach: Aaron - no report in the drive just talking points

h. NCCNA Registration: no report, no one available

### 13. Old Business

a. Patrick - "Has this body decided on the questions they want to ask the Convention Board?"

i. Diego - "I wrote down the notes on that."

ii. Patrick - "And can you share them with us?"

3. Diego - "Well, I need Big Mike's input for guidance. A lot of the discussion points were already in the minutes from last week, but we don't have those minutes available right now. I did write down who the letter should be addressed to, and I'll connect with a few people to finalize it."

4. Aaron - "When I went to the MBCNA meeting, I was wondering — is it the Board's convention, or is it the members' convention?"

5. Tish - "Look, I feel like I'm just the messenger here. I wasn't the trusted servant during the last six cycles. I'm trying to clean up a mess that wasn't mine — spanning the last three conventions, which is six years. Yes, this body elected vice chairs during those years. If those people didn't follow through with their duties, that's not on me. My responsibility is to report on the current term — from the end of the 2025 convention to the end of 2027. That's why the Board Chair and CFO are trying to move me out of the loop on older matters — because those aren't mine to report on. I was Merchandise Chair back then, not Vice Chair. Now I'm doing the best I can with what I inherited."

6. Aaron - "But we don't vote you in."

7. Tish - "You actually do. Yes, we're elected by the committee, but we still have to come back and be confirmed by Area. I had to be voted in here, just like everyone else who has served in these roles. So I'm doing my best to gather the information — even though the 2025 report technically isn't even mine to deliver yet. But I'm still waiting on it so I can bring it back to you."

7. Aaron - ""You're our link to MBCNA, right?"

8. Tish - "Right"

9. Aaron - "All we're asking is for you to be of service to us — to represent us and advocate for us. This is *our* convention, not just the Board's. And the Board should be sending someone here. Could you take that back to your group and ask your Chair to have the MBCNA CEO attend an Area meeting?"

10. Tish - ""Our meeting is on Thursday. I've taken every request you've given me — even those outside my duties — and followed through. I've brought back every bank statement, every month I've been here. I don't know all the circumstances, just like you don't. I get what I can and bring it back. The Board has asked for formal, written requests. Kenny already has the info for the next Board meeting — it's on September 18th at 1:00 PM, and it happens quarterly. As for the CEO coming here — I'm not sure he'll come from Santa Cruz on a Monday night. That's why they prefer a letter outlining all your questions, and then they'll provide the answers for me to bring back."

11. Aaron - "don't want you to feel that way. But you're our link, right?"

12. Tish - ""Honestly, every month it feels like people just want to vent at me about MBCNA. I'm doing everything I can, but I don't control MBCNA. Next month, I'll bring the final report for the 2025 convention — even though it's not technically mine to report. Right now, the closeout hasn't been approved by the convention committee yet, so I can't release it. Once it is, I'll bring it to you."

13. Kevin - ""So the financials — that's what's still coming?"

14. Tish - ""Yes. The books were supposed to be closed within 45 days, but lingering payments and issues delayed that. For example, the room blocks weren't met, so the convention owed money. Also, there were mistakes in the financial reports — actuals were in the wrong column, and things didn't balance. We've tried to fix it. I appreciate being of service — I've been doing this for 13 years."

15. Diego - "So when we write this request letter to the MBCNA Board, should I base it on the minutes, or do we need to re-discuss it?"

18. Aaron - "I don't think we need to discuss it again. I wasn't here last month, but once the minutes come out, I'll review them."

From what I understand, the Board wants a formal letter stating exactly what this body is requesting — likely for archive and accountability purposes. It's not just a phone call or word-of-mouth. This makes it official."

19. Diego - "Got it. So we're requesting financials from the last two cycles?"

20. Tish - "Yes — request financials for 2023 and the previous cycle, which I believe was 2019. Also include:

- The \$5,000 seed money that was issued
- Three months of bank statements before each convention
- Three months after
- And the closing books for each cycle

I could have written the letter myself — but if you'd prefer to do it, that's fine too."

21. Aaron - "'Quick question for the Hollister Group — is this the info you were originally asking for? I was asked to attend the meeting and gather this information, and I want to make sure we're aligned."

22. Mark - "'Yes — we're asking for the financials for the last two convention cycles. We want to know what events happened, where the money went, and what it was used for."

23. Aaron - "Perfect. Just making sure we're all on the same page."

24. Tish - "'Right — so you need the final budgets/financials, the bank statements before and after, and anything relating to the \$5,000 seed money. I'll bring the 2025 closeout once it's ready — and that's everything I can do for now."

25. Diego - "Okay, and I'll write the letter."

26. Tish - "Send me your email — I'll draft the letter and send it to you."

All right. Thank you, I appreciate you. I'd really like to get this wrapped up."

27. Kevin - "It's a touchy subject, I get that — but we're all on the same team. This was being talked about even before you took your position, so it's not an attack on you personally. It's just something that's been hanging out there for a while — at least two years. We apologize if it feels like it's directed at you. That's not the intention — we're just trying to handle it respectfully and finally get it resolved."

28. Tish - "I'm very aware — I've been part of this fellowship for a while."

My clean date is August 13th, 2011, so yeah... it's been a minute."

And I understand what everyone's saying — I just wanted to reiterate that."

29. Kevin - "Exactly. We appreciate everything you're doing. This isn't about blame — we're just trying to get clarity. There's a lot of money involved, and we need to get ahead of it now so the same issues don't happen again."

30. Tish - "That makes sense. I would just say this: really consider who you vote in as trusted servants. MBCNA, the talent show, Activities — they might vote in their own chairs, but those people still have to come here to be voted in by this body. So if we, as a body, are voting in people who don't follow through with their commitments, then we all have to take some responsibility for that."

#### 14. New Business

- a. Corey - As I mentioned earlier, I haven't had a chance to speak with Kathy yet. I thought I'd see her tonight to formally change the name and format of the meeting. Oh—right, that's what I was looking for—the books. That's what it was. There have been meetings in the past that were literature-based. Specifically, this new meeting in Salinas. I know they had truckloads of old literature. So if any of you are part of other meetings and have extra literature, that would be helpful. As I mentioned, we're now a rotating literature format. Right now we're on *Living Clean*. I believe the next book will be the

*Basic Text*, and so on. If you know of any meetings or locations with extra literature—maybe in storage, in a locker, or even in someone's house—and you're willing to donate, that would be great. It's hard when we only have one book. It gets frustrating—especially considering that we all read at different paces, and some people may not be able to read at all. Also, if anyone has a bit of extra cash, maybe we could purchase two or three more books specifically for the group to use during meetings.

1. Aaron - "One suggestion would be for members who attend the meeting to bring their own books from home. That's reasonable.

I know the Neuters group has literature. I'm not sure if it's a lot, but they use it for their own book studies, like *Living Clean*, *It Works: How and Why*, and the *Basic Text*.

Another suggestion is to pass the basket a few extra times, purchase a few books, and slowly build up your group's literature collection. Members could also contribute \$12 to buy their own copy of *Living Clean* and bring it to the meeting. Just some ideas on how to build the collection."

2. Patrick - "That meeting in Salinas that closed—was there any excess literature left over from Monday night?"

3. Timothius - "Monday Night Madness? Yes, there were books, but they were all donated already."

4. Kristina - "Would it ever be possible to ask Area for funding to buy books for the meeting?"

5. Aaron - "You can always put in a motion and bring it up for discussion. There's nothing wrong with that. I've seen it done before—pass the hat a couple of extra times, and people are usually willing to help donate for literature.

But if you're rotating books every month, that's quite a few books to supply—like 10 *Basic Texts*, 10 *Living Clean*, 10 *It Works: How and Why*. So it depends on how you want to structure your meeting and what works best for you.

Maybe you'll find that you just need a few shared copies, or maybe you'll decide to stick with one book for two to three months and build from there.

I think what you're doing is great. There are lots of ways to go about it. Area Service has always been supportive of carrying the message. But personally, I also believe in being self-supporting. If I go to a literature study, I bring my own books.

I even attend a Zoom meeting on Thursdays where we go through the literature together, and everyone brings their own copy. So yeah—Area can help, but it's also about us supporting our own recovery too."

## 15. Open Forum

- a. Aaron - "This is just my little soapbox, and it's become that for me because I've heard this issue mentioned a few times. I don't go to all the meetings, but the ones I do attend—this comes up.

Each meeting is autonomous—we all know that. Every group can govern itself and run its meeting the way it chooses. For example, at our men's meeting, when we read the readings, we don't chant along. The reader just reads, and everyone listens.

From my experience, when I went to treatment back in 2008, the chanting thing started in treatment. I remember getting out and going to meetings, and watching our predecessors. Two who were especially dear to me—Bobby J. and Leslie—neither of them chanted. My dad didn't chant either. And I believe that chanting can take away from the person reading and becomes a distraction for others trying to listen.

Again, every meeting is autonomous. But if you or your group doesn't prefer the chanting, you can bring it up gently at a business meeting—make a motion and explain your perspective in a kind and respectful way. It's not about saying, "You can't do that." That's not how I was taught. I was taught to observe and to listen—to follow those who came before us.

I bring it up because I overheard a conversation recently—I'll just say it—about the SNL meeting. It's a big treatment-based meeting, and it's been that way for years. Even when we had it in Salinas, and still today. But as members of NA, we have the right to speak up too.

I've heard people with 39, 40 years clean say they want to come to meetings, but there's just so much noise and distraction that it keeps them away. Even with that much clean time, they still need to hear the message just as much as a newcomer.

I'm not trying to tell anyone how to run their meeting. But I'm being honest—it keeps me away from certain meetings. Sometimes, it drives me crazy. There have been times I've almost stopped reading mid-way and said, "You guys can read it."

And I'm not the only member who feels this way. If we want our meetings to be inclusive, we have to read the room—especially when there are long-time members or predecessors present.

Again, if your meeting chooses to chant, I respect that. But I'm saying this as someone who does outreach and has been a member for a long time. And yes, this is why I personally don't attend SNL anymore. Thanks..

Just one more thing—the Monday night men's stag meeting has decided not to continue. I'm not sure if Peter got in touch with you, Lawrence—Peter W.—but we also voted not to hold the sponsor/sponsee spaghetti dinner this year.

Some things just come to a natural end. That said, we'd be open to passing the event on to the Activities Committee, if they want to take it over. We'd be willing to help out—either by giving you the idea or helping coordinate, outside of securing a venue.

Also, I know there was discussion previously about possibly combining the women's brunch and the men's event into a joint sponsor/sponsee event. I think that would be awesome. I'd love to collaborate on something like that."

1. Lawrence - "Yeah, I'll bring it up at our next meeting. If you guys want to send a representative to talk more about it, our meeting is the third Thursday of each month at 404 Lincoln in Salinas at 6:30 PM."

## 16. Motions

- a. Kevin - “For the record—regarding the food and items purchased out-of-pocket for Spring Learning Day—the total amount spent was \$961. However, a \$600 check was received prior to the event, which didn’t cover all the costs. The remaining balance is \$361. Receipts are attached.

So... is this something we need to move as a motion, or what's the process?”

1. Aaron - “It’s not a motion because this is already in your budget.

Is the \$361 over budget?”

2. Nick - “I’ll take responsibility for this. I wasn’t aware of the proper process. I should have submitted a request for the full \$961. We only went over by \$61, but the full amount was budgeted and we can afford it.

I didn’t submit the request correctly, so I received a check for \$600 to cover upfront costs. Peter covered the rest out-of-pocket. The \$900 was always in our budget, I just miscommunicated.”

3. Aaron - “So, is this coming from your team’s budget?”

4. Nick - “Correct”

5. Aaron - “Then it’s basically a moot point. Makes sense. I thought you were asking the area for funding.”

6. Nick - “No, it’s coming from our budget.”

7. Anne - “Who is taking responsibility for the \$361 amount? H&I or PI?”

8. Aaron - “Half of it”

- b. Kevin - “Also dated today, August 11th:

I, Nick Guest, move that we cut a check to Stan A. for the purpose of purchasing food for NA volunteers at the Salinas Valley State Prison.

Amount requested: \$500.”

1. Diego - “So this is a motion, right?”

2. Nick - “To be honest, Stan called me a couple of hours ago requesting this.

Since it’s Stan, I trust him. I still need to check the budget to confirm. He usually does this event annually. Last year it didn’t happen due to lockdown, so it may have carried over.

It’s an H&I event, and I believe it’s in the budget. I’ll need to verify.””

3. Aaron - ““So he just has to find the line item in the budget.

If it's listed, then it's covered and that's fine.”

4. Nick - “There's no specific line item for that particular event, but our overall event budget is \$800.

If my math is right, and we're taking \$450 out of \$150 that's left—

Actually, can I amend the motion to \$300 instead of \$500?

I don't think Stan needs \$500 to feed 10 people lunch.

That way it stays within budget and we can move on.”

5. Aaron - “ Just change it”

6. Nick - “I would like to do that if thats cool.”

7. Diego - “You have got time”

Meeting End: 8:11 PM

Submitted by Kristina Ruiz