



Monterey and San Benito Counties Area Service Committee

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026

1. Meeting Start: 6:30PM
2. Diego opens the meeting with the Serenity Prayer
Chris reads the 12 Concept.
3. Introduction to new GSRs and Visitors
 - a. Tamika- visitor
 - b. Barbara-visitor
 - c. Mike-visitor

4. Milestones

- a. Eric-1 year
- b. Rick- 14 years

Approval of Minutes

Kristel H – Correction to minutes (clarified name spelling)

Hadley – Motion to approve minutes

Tim – Second

Vote:

No opposition

No abstentions

Minutes approved

5. Additions to Agenda

- a. Kristina- “I wanted to ask the group about possibly scheduling a time where we do A training for this area where we go over the service commitments.”

- b. Inventory from RSC here tonight to present

6. Area Service Committee Reports

- a. Chair: Chair gives report (see google drive)
- b. Vice Chair: Kevin shares report (see google drive)
- c. Recording secretary: Kristina - shares report.
 - 1. Tim – “Shouldn’t we have known about this last month?”
 - a. Kristina – “No, because we’re only doing nominations this month.”
 - b. Kristel H – “So nominations tonight, voting next month.”
 - c. Tim – “Then why take it back to our groups if nominations are already happening tonight? That doesn’t give anyone in the groups a chance to put their name in.”
 - d. Rick – “We can bring nominations next month as well.”
 - e. Mike – “And another thing is, it’s all in our guidelines. If you read the guidelines, you would see it. We could have helped whoever was here last month. I wasn’t, but I would have.”
- d. Treasurer: Anne shares report (see google drive)
 - a. Mike – “Anne, do you know who’s holding those outstanding checks?”
 - b. Anne – “Yes, one was cashed yesterday, and the other one is from VTA, so it’s probably cleared by now. The one for \$9.”
 - c. Mike – “The statement was from the previous month. Okay, thank you.”
- e. Literature: Raichel shares report (see google drive)
 - a. Mike – “We’re not making any literature purchases this month, right? It’s \$5,000, correct?”
 - b. Raichel – “No, it’s in the guidelines.”
- f. RCM 1: Rosie gives report (see google drive)
- g. RCM 2: Antoinette gives report
 - a. Mike – “I know this area used to have a line item in the budget to send a representative to learning days. I don’t think it was included this month, but could we ask you to bring an estimated cost?”
 - b. Antoinette – “I did, but I didn’t want to take up too much time.”
 - c. Mike – “Maybe next month or the following month, because of elections.”
 - d. Antoinette – “I’ll write it out. I did a rough estimate of about \$690 with a breakdown.”

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. H&I: Nick- gave report

- a. Unknown Member – “Is there a clean time requirement for coordinator positions or any positions you have available?”
- b. Nick – “The coordinator position varies depending on the facility. For example, the state prison has specific requirements, but I don’t know them off the top of my head—Stan would know better. Generally, it involves a certain amount of time out of an institution and off paper. Monterey County Jail and San Benito County Jail have similar requirements—time out of the system and off paper. Some facilities have fewer requirements, such as six months clean time, along with the expectation that you carry a strong message of recovery. So it really depends on the facility.

As for other positions—like secretary, which is currently filled temporarily, and literature coordinator—those typically require six months to a year clean time. I may be missing one position. If you’re interested in a specific role, let me know. I have the guidelines and can provide exact requirements.”

- c. Mike – Gives report for the pig roast
- d. Hadley – “I have a question for the H&I Chair. Is anyone taking meetings into Natividad Hospital?”
- e. Nick – “Not at present. We had someone going in semi-regularly, but they had health issues to deal with. That position is currently open. I should have included that in the report, and I’ll update it next month.”
- f. Bryan – “Do you know if we are taking meetings into Juvenile Hall or the Youth Center?”
- g. Nick – “No, but that has been brought up. I don’t know if we currently have a contact there. It would be a great opportunity and fits well with H&I. If you’d like to come to the next meeting and bring it to the committee, that would be great—we’d appreciate that.

We previously had someone going into CHOMP, but that relationship ended. I don’t have firsthand knowledge of why, and that person is no longer in the area. That was several months, maybe a year ago. We’ve discussed trying to reestablish that connection, but no one has taken the lead on it. At the time, we were told they weren’t interested, but I’ve recently heard that may have changed, so it could be a good time to look into it again.”

b. PI/PR: Carrie gave the report (see google drive)

- a. Mike – “If the meeting is on the meeting schedule and they require a Certificate of Insurance (COI) or additional insured status, they would request it. Then you would contact the region’s special worker. You’d need to provide all the required information, including who needs to be named on the policy. There is a \$40 processing fee. After that, the certificate would be issued and you would deliver it to them.”
- b. Carrie – “I did provide them with the general certificate for Monterey. There is a general one we use. They weren’t sure if they needed to be

specifically listed. It was just a question that came up. Monterey Fellowship Hall was asking for something, so that's what I provided."

- c. Mike – "If the facility is requesting to be specifically listed, then we follow that process. If they're not requesting it, then there's no need—our general insurance covers it. You can also find the certificate on norcala.org under the insurance section. That's the correct one."
- d. Carrie – "That's what I gave them."
- e. Rosie – "Did anybody attend the PR sharing forum in February?"
- f. Carrie – "Yes."

c. Activities: Lawrence gave the report (see google drive)

- a. Mike – "Did you get a quote for the insurance for the bonfire?"
- b. Lawrence – "The bonfire or the campout?"
- c. Kristina – "I'm the treasurer of the Activities Committee. No, we haven't solidified any dates or details yet, so we can't request a quote until we have an actual date and location. Once those are confirmed, we will request the insurance quote."
- d. Lawrence – "Yes, I believe the last time we paid for it, it was about \$170."
- e. Mike – "If you're able to submit all your dates at once for the same location, they may be able to process it under one request. That way you would only pay one processing fee."
- f. Kristina – "Last summer, when we planned a series of events at the same location, I was told I had to reapply for insurance each time we changed the date. I can clarify that with them, but I do have an email stating that a new application was required."
- g. Mike – "My understanding is that if you submit multiple dates at once for the same location, they can process it under one request. It may cost more overall, but it would only require one processing fee."
- h. Barbara – "Are we making a donation to the VTC for Valentine's Day?"
- i. Lawrence – "Yes, we usually make a \$40 donation."
- j. Hadley – "Is Activities having nominations this month?"
- k. Lawrence – "Yes, we are having nominations for open positions, including chair—which I currently hold—and treasurer. I'm not sure about the treasurer position specifically."
- l. Kristina – "Yes, I've been the treasurer for the Activities Committee for three years, and it was brought up at our last meeting that it may still be difficult to fill the position. It's not a difficult role, so please bring it back to your groups and encourage participation and spirit of rotation."

d. MBCNA: Amy shares report (see google drive)

- a. Rosie – “Yeah, the financials or the report you just gave—can we get that uploaded to the Drive?”
- b. Amy – “Yes, I’ll do that right now.”

e. Women’s Brunch: Rosie shares report (see google drive)

- a. Kristel H – “Saturday Night Live and the Sister to Sister meeting have large donations in the cart. We will be handing those over to Rachel as well. In case you’ve forgotten, as someone who has served on the Brunch Committee and has a sponsor who is heavily involved, I’ve mentioned each time I speak about the Women’s Brunch what they do. Two cycles ago, the Women’s Brunch also donated to a mixed men’s and women’s meeting that had been struggling to pay rent for a significant period of time. That was also supported through those funds. It is a very good cause. Also, for those who may not know, when committees accept donations, not just the Women’s Brunch but any committee, the treasurer is responsible for keeping a separate record of those funds and reporting what has been collected so there is proper documentation. I just wanted to put that out there. Thank you.”
- b. Mike – “I heard you say that next year is the last year. Is it the last year because you no longer want to do it, or because you need more women to get involved?”
- c. Rosie – “Nobody wants to get involved or step into service, and that’s unfortunate. It’s a very successful event and the women really enjoy it. It’s sad, but we’re tired—ten years, right? Next year will be ten years of doing the same thing. I believe in the spirit of rotation and I’d like to hand it over. But yes, next year will be the last year.”

f. Outreach: not present

8. Old Business

Area Inventory by Jimmy Lee:

Summary- Jimmy Lee led a discussion on the purpose of area service, emphasizing that it exists to support NA groups and carry the message to addicts. He introduced the “Vision for NA Service” and connected it to how the area should function.

The main issue identified was a lack of participation in service, especially at the area and subcommittee level (PR, H&I, etc.). Many members shared that while people are willing to do service at the meeting level, there is a big drop-off when it comes to area involvement.

Several causes were discussed:

- Lack of awareness and education about service roles
- Negative perceptions of area (“area circus”)
- Poor communication from GSRs to groups
- Burnout among active members and lack of rotation

- Financial and time constraints
- Difficulty engaging newcomers

Proposed solutions included:

- Making service more attractive and engaging
- Better communication and enthusiasm from GSRs
- Leading by example and personally inviting others
- Providing education (presentations, workshops, how-to resources)
- Encouraging mentorship and smoother transitions into roles
- Improving access to tools like Google Drive and service materials
- Promoting accountability and follow-up

Overall, the focus shifted toward being solution-oriented, encouraging participation, and finding better ways to connect members to service in a positive and supportive way.

9. Open Forum:

I.

- Tim – *makes a motion to table Open Forum until next month. Motion did not pass.*
- Tim – “The first item under Open Forum—two months ago I asked whether we could expand that section so there’s more room to write what’s being discussed. I haven’t seen that change happen, so is that a no, or is that something that won’t be done?”
- The other item is the GSR report we submit to Kristina. That form doesn’t change, but there weren’t enough copies today. We could print more so we don’t run out. I’m talking about the monthly meeting attendance report. It’s a standardized form, so we could easily have a stack available. There’s no reason we should be short. Where did you get that one?”
- Kristina – “I’m the secretary of this meeting, and it’s my responsibility to print those forms. When I took over this position, I was instructed to only print 15 per week because it is suggested that GSRs use the digital version instead of paper. The reason is that we maintain a digital record of all submissions, and when paper copies are used, I have to manually enter the information, which GSRs could input themselves. It is also recommended that these be completed electronically before the meeting begins. That is why there are limited paper copies available.”

II. Anne-

- Anne – “Everybody knows that many people now use electronic payments—such as credit cards, phones, and Apple Pay—instead of cash. For example, someone may want to sell pig roast T-shirts at NCCNA but may not have a way to accept electronic payments if they don’t use their phone for that purpose. I checked with the bank, and they offer a payment terminal that we can get for free, which accepts credit cards and mobile payments. The only requirement is that it must be connected to secure Wi-Fi. I would like to propose that Area consider getting one of these terminals so we can sell merchandise at events and other locations.

To use the terminal, a separate bank account is required with a \$100 minimum deposit, and all electronic payment funds would go into that account. This keeps those funds separate from the main Area account and any subcommittee accounts. For example, if a subcommittee like the Pig Roast is selling

merchandise, their treasurer would be responsible for tracking sales made through the terminal. The Area Treasurer would then verify the total and transfer the appropriate funds into the correct subcommittee account. The first terminal is free, and any additional terminals would cost \$89 each.

Basic guidelines would include having a subcommittee treasurer sign out the terminal, ensuring secure Wi-Fi is used, returning the terminal by the next Area business meeting, reporting total sales including location and sales tax, and having the Area Treasurer verify and transfer the funds. This proposal is simply a way to adapt to the growing need for electronic payment options.”

- b. Tim – “Is a cellular phone considered secure Wi-Fi?”
- c. Group – “No.”
- d. Anne – “Yeah, I don’t really know much about Wi-Fi, so that part is confusing.”
- e. Mike – “We have someone in this room whose profession involves this. Maybe they could provide more information.”
- f. Jimmy Lee – “I would encourage you to reach out to the board. They handle credit card processing, fees, and compliance regularly. ‘Secure Wi-Fi’ is often misunderstood. True PCI compliance requires strict security measures, including two-factor authentication and other protections. These systems are highly regulated because banks operate under federal requirements. This is a good idea, but I recommend consulting experts before moving forward.”
- g. Anne – “I thought I understood this, but I’ve been told different things, and now I don’t think this will work if we can’t get secure Wi-Fi. I don’t know how we would even set that up, and a phone wouldn’t work for it.”
- h. Amy – “To get secure Wi-Fi, you would need to coordinate with the venue, such as a hotel or convention center, and have them provide a dedicated secure network. That’s how these events typically do it. We recently did this for a gala, so I know it is possible, but it has to come from the location.”
- i. Kristina – “I think part of the appeal is using this at events like the Pig Roast, but those locations often don’t have Wi-Fi. So in the long run, we may need to develop new guidelines for how Area uses this.”
- j. Tamika – “Would this be available for multiple subcommittees or just one committee?”
- k. Anne – “It would be for subcommittees under Area that have bank accounts.”
- l. Nick – “The first terminal is free. If one is damaged or lost, would the replacement also be free, or would we have to pay?”
- m. Group – “\$89.”
- n. Matthew – “This is tied to one account with a \$100 deposit, correct?”
- o. Anne – “Yes, funds would go into one account. Area would provide the \$100 deposit. But if we can’t get a secure network, then there’s no point in moving forward.”
- p. Tim – “Could we table this until next month?”
- q. Anne – “There isn’t much to table if we can’t resolve the Wi-Fi issue.”
- r. Tim – “I understand, but this could still be used at convention centers and larger venues for merchandise sales, like NCCNA or similar events. It may not work for Pig Roast or smaller local events, but it could still be useful.”
- s. Matthew – “There has to be a way to make this work outside of major facilities.”
- t. Jimmy Lee – “If there is no Wi-Fi at these locations, then many of the places you’re talking about won’t support this system. Even at conventions like NCCNA,

secure Wi-Fi often comes at a high cost and requires vendor-level access through their network.”

- u. Rosie – “I think it would be helpful to follow up and contact the board or appropriate contacts for clarification about conventions. Once we have clear answers, we can make a more informed decision.”

10. Motions

- a. Motion: Reimbursement for postage for H&I Behind the Walls sponsorship submitted by Patrick. Amount: \$78. Line item 105. **Passed.**
- b. Motion: Reimbursement for Rick Baker for printing meeting guides. Line item PI101. **Passed.**

11. The Area Chair read all requirements for each position. Each nominee qualified themselves:

- a. **Chair** – Kevin (nominated by Anne)
- b. **Vice Chair** – Kristina R. (nominated by Kristel H), Tim J. (nominated by Mike)
- c. **Treasurer** – Anne H. (nominated by Diego)
- d. **Vice Treasurer** – Raichel P. (nominated by Kristel H) – *accepted*
- e. **Secretary** – No nominations
- f. **RCM 1** – Angelina S. (nominated by Rosie) – *accepted*
- g. **RCM 2** – Tamika B. (nominated by Rosie)
- h. **Literature Chair** – Lily (nominated by Raichel)
- i. **Literature Vice Chair** – No nominations
- j. **Literature Assistant** – Hadley (nominated by Raichel)
- k. **H&I** – Tabled until next Area meeting (requested by Nick)
- l. **PI** – Carrie M. (nominated by Mike)
- m. **Activities Chair** – Lawrence remains in position
- n. **Talent Show Chair** – Bryan (nominated by Rich)
- o. **MBCNA Vice Chair** – No nominations
- p. **Outreach Chair** – No nominations
- q. **Women’s Brunch Chair** – Rosie (self-nominated)

Meeting End: 9:22PM

Submitted by Kristina Ruiz