



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS DISTRICT 33 HISTORY

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2. The Union Democrat Newspaper 10/12/10 - Alcoholics Anonymous - Providing 12 steps to sobriety

I. INTRODUCTION

“California Northern Interior Area 07 (CNIA 07) is one of six A.A. General Service Areas in California and extends from the Oregon border in the inland valleys south to Kings and Tulare Counties. CNIA contains 29 Districts including five Spanish Language Districts.” (cniia.org) District 33 is in Area 07 and is located in Tuolumne County. There are presently 52 meetings in District 33, and 17 Zoom meetings. (*See Appendix A*)

Sources – Panel 74

District 33 registration with New York General Service Office could not be confirmed; nor was there a record at Area 07. The sources used to reconstruct this history are oral, written and published. The primary sources are the many elders who came together in groups and individually to share their memories in the early years for District 33, conveying both anecdotal and factual history.

The Archive Committee for Panel 74, consisting of myself, Kathy M, and three members, Jeanine S, Lisa H, and Rayna C, are committed to create as many group and individual histories as possible over the period of this panel. Craig G was our contact in identifying and contacting elders in the District for interviews and his help has been very much appreciated. He gathered several elders for interview(s) at the Alano Club in Sonora. The research of this history has allowed this committee to understand the dedication, enthusiasm and love of Alcoholics Anonymous that District 33 has endeavored to maintain and grow.

Interviewed--April 2024 - Bill S, Bob H, Carolyn H, Cher J, Cindy S, Craig G, Dave H, David J, Lori D, Mary D, Perry A, Rayna C, Steve D.

The District business meeting presently meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The District also meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm, conducting a workshop, studying general service and its many facets. Both of these meetings are held at the Willow Springs Clubhouse, located at 20522 Willow Springs Drive, Soulsbyville, CA, as a hybrid meeting. Zoom ID 850 8138 0939, PW 1234. Both meetings are one hour.

II. HISTORY

*The below history for District 33
spans 39 years*

Timelines - locations where the District have met monthly are as follows:

- Rube’s Restaurant/Giovanni’s (presently The Garden Café).
- 320 W. Stockton Street
- Sonora Alano Club
- Veteran’s Hall, 9 N Washington Street, Sonora
- Willow Springs Clubhouse, Soulsbyville

The District celebrates Unity Day each year in October, although this year it is being held in September. It has been held in previous locations - but in the recent past, it was held at Tuolumne Park, Tuolumne, California. A chili cookoff and bar-be-cue are great attractions, as are the speakers.

III. THE EARLY YEARS

The earliest group in Tuolumne County registered with New York/Area 07 was on November 28, 1955. The group is the Sonora Friendship Group, located at 9 S. Washington Street, Sonora, at the Veteran's Building. This group remains active. Another group that has remained active is the Twain Harte Turning Point Group, located at Twain Harte Bible Church, Twain Harte, CA. (Its registered location is All Saints Catholic Church, 23179 Charmise Drive, Twain Harte). It was registered with New York on August 11, 1977.

The District was founded by Loretta P. A letter dated December 2, 1985, from Loretta P to "Annie" indicated that District 33 was formed by her, and she was elected as the District's first District Committee Member (DCM) - (*See Appendix B*). Area 07 Archives in Stockton forwarded this letter from the file of District 33 held in their archives. Loretta was looking forward to attending Area meetings and assemblies and growing District 33. Loretta has since passed away and could not be consulted on this history.

History of DCM's. As noted above, Loretta P was District 33's first DCM. As of this writing, a complete list of DCM's has not been received from Area 07. (*See Appendix C*).

Assembly(ies) Held in District 33: District 33 has hosted several assemblies. An assembly that was held in Long Barn at the Ice Rink is fondly remembered by many elders as one of the best events that the District hosted for Area 07. (*See Appendix D*).

Past Group Activities that Take Place in Our Environment. A few years back, a group of women, young and old, went on a couple of outdoor adventures. One was zip lining at Moaning Cavern, and the other was a whitewater rafting trip down the American River. Many of the women have invited sponsees and women in the Fellowship, to outdoor activities in the Pinecrest area (boating in the Summer snowshoeing in the Winter). There is no doubt that walks in nature have been helpful in our collective recovery. Everyone was invited each September to come to Fraser Flat Campground. You could come just for the day, or camp overnight in one of the designated campsites.

Group (District) Inventory Conducted - District 33 - October 5, 2009 "Our common welfare comes first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity." Inventories are conducted usually by an outside Area officer or DCM to conduct a "spot check" on the group's health and to ensure that their message to the alcoholic who still suffers is working. This inventory was conducted for District 33 in 2009. More recently, an inventory/group conscience was conducted for District 33 in March 2024. (*See Appendix E*)

AA History Book was created in 2018. The purpose of the AA History Book was to reclaim some of the history of District 33 that was lost. Many were involved in collecting and researching for this wonderful re-creation. Loretta P, Carolyn H and Dave F are mentioned in the creation of the AA History Book. Mary D related that Loretta P, her sponsor, who was ill, gave her the History Books and asked her to protect them and to be sure that the next Archivist received these for the posterity of District 33. (*See Appendix F*)

III. ANECDOTAL MEMOIRS

Elders Mentioned by Those AA Members Interviewed:

Albert H, Avery, Bertie R, Bill C, Bill D, Bill K, Bill S, Bob H, Bob S, Bobby K, Carolyn H, Charmain A, Cher B (The Road Queen), Cindy S, Clara, Craig G, Curt L, Curt MB, Dave H, Dave O, Dave t, Del P, Diana R, Everett A, Floyd (Slim) E, Gail K, George G, George S, George Z, Gina M, Guy H, Janet D, Jason C., Joan B, Joan M,

John "The Cop," Juanita B, Kathy H, Karen M, Larry & Lenora S, Larry & Suzanne W, Lolly O, Loretta P, Lori R, Lonnie J, Loretta P, Mark D, Marty D, Mike K, Miss Connie, Pat O, fire Camp located at Sierra Conservation Center), Pizza Bob, Mary D, Perry A, "Plain" Jack C, "Saint," Scooter tramp, Spike B, Valeria, Walter E, Warren & Sheila S (Started the 1st AA meeting at the Fire Camp located at the Sierra Conservation Center)

Meetings and meeting places played such a crucial role in our early fellowship (notably only a few of the old timers, at our meeting with them, had any knowledge of the history of the District). This rural area had few choices and offerings for a long time, so perpetuating individual meetings was critical to the AA program here. A few individuals' dedication at the meeting level, kept this Fellowship alive. The Archive Committee intends to include those remaining members' interviews, held in April & May, 2024, in the upcoming history of the Alano Club.

Bob H Memoirs - The Archive Committee interviewed Bob at the Alano Club on June 26, 2024. Bob is a long-time advocate of District 33 and was DCM over three Panels. This history dates back to 1998. (See Appendix G).

Mary D Memoirs - This memoir was created during a phone conversation on July 23, 2024. (See Appendix H).

Bill C Memoirs - This memoir was recorded by Grant C, Bill's son and solicited by Rayna C, Archivist in 2009-2011 (See Appendix I).

Perry A - Memoirs (Larry S) - (See Appendix J). Perry was interviewed during a telephone conversation with Kathy M, present Archivist, District 33, on April 23, 2024, wherein he had a great number of memories of the early days in Tuolumne County AA.

IV. PRESENT HISTORY

The District is healthy with most chairs filled and has group participation from General Service Representatives (GSR's). Our present DCM is Drew R for Panel 74. The District is financially solvent, with many groups donating on a regular basis. All travel is reimbursed, and events are funded promptly. During the Pandemic, the District met via Zoom and managed to stay active and afloat financially. The District monthly business meeting moved from the Veteran's Hall on Washington Street in Sonora, in 2022 to the Willow Spring Clubhouse as it had Zoom capabilities. It remains at this location to date.

GSR's. Presently, we have approximately 12-14 Groups represented by a GSR.

DCM's Writes to AA Members via the Website: A large part of the DCM's responsibilities is to make announcements and give information to the fellowship when there is change. Drew R, DCM, in March 2020, writes to the fellowship about the Pandemic and how we can stay united. (Please see Appendix K for all Website Info)

DCM. Our present DCM has a full complement of chairpersons for Panel 74.

Recording Secretary. Our Recording Secretary takes notes at our monthly District meeting and emails all reports to the GSR's and chairpersons.

Treasurer. The District's Treasurer has an important job in that without our District Group's 7th Tradition, it would be impossible to carry the message to the alcoholic who still needs help. Our Treasurer assures by their monthly report that our expenses and income spending plan are on target.

Literature. Our Literature chairperson keeps a reasonable inventory of AA books to all who want to purchase at our purchase price.

Present Website: aasonora.org. In 2024, a new website platform was launched (aasonora.org). The website is presently evolving, and it is anticipated that it will reach out to the newcomer and the seasoned AA veteran in a user-friendly format, as well as future website chairs to easily oversee.

First Website was created by Peter S in 2011. A narrative was submitted by Rayna C, present member of the Archive Committee and past Archivist 2009-2011

Hotline: Delta Intergroup (209) 464-1594 presently is our source for District 33's Hotline. The District has volunteers to take calls and a Chairperson to oversee the functions.

Grapevine. Our Grapevine Representative reports monthly on activities promoting the Grapevine.

4th Monday Workshop. We recently had a two-part presentation given by Don H, a local AA Historian and collector of AA literature, artifacts and history, where he took us on a journey through our early AA beginnings. We learned about AA's early members and cofounder's stories and how the Big Book had so many obstacles in production and getting our first edition Big Book to the still suffering alcoholic. Fascinating!

Registrar. Our registrar is available to any group that wants to be registered with the Area and New York to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and be heard via their GSR at all assemblies.

Unity Day Chair. Each year, the District hosts Unity Day at a local venue. This year, due to the District being flush in 7th tradition, the event will offer a free meal.

Archives: Kathy M - Present Archivist - Panel 74 (2024=2026) Noteworthy - a locking four-drawer file cabinet to house the archives was purchased and is stored at the Alano Club at the rate of \$50/year. Our focus is on writing histories of groups and individuals in District 33, creating an exhibit to display at events and organizing the Archives for members.

Known Archivists:

Frank - Frank was a previous archivist (Panel and date unknown), who stored the District Archives in his woodshed. After a rain, water seeped in and destroyed the collection.

Rayna C - In 2009-2011, Rayna was Archivist for District 33. She wrote many individual stories and researched information from the local newspaper (see attached). At the conclusion of her panel, she turned her collection of archives over to the DCM, Gordon, for safekeeping. Gordon subsequently passed away and all historical archival information he was in possession of was lost. The archives were stored at Gordon's home and the family inadvertently disposed of it all after he passed.

Loretta P - Loretta was archivist during the creation of the AA History Book (2018-2019)

John P - John was Archivist during Panel 70. He created an audiotape on how we were faring during the Pandemic of 2020-22. Questionnaire to members on how they transitioned to Zoom meetings from our much-loved and nurturing live meetings. John has submitted the following narrative during the Pandemic: (see Appendix L).

Paul O - Paul was the Archivist in Panel 72. He was most helpful in assisting the incoming archivist to step into this position. It is helpful to have the previous chair transition the incoming chair.

PI/CPC. The District has an active chairperson who is dedicated to taking AA's message to the professional community.

Guidelines: The creation of Guidelines for District 33 was conducted by Cliff M, Drew R, Kathy M, and Victoria A. The Guidelines were ratified on April 8, 2024. The Guidelines are located on the District's website. (See Appendix M)

IN SUMMARY

It is an honor to serve as Archivist for District 33 and to meet so many members who roll up their sleeves and do the work. I would like to thank all those who participated in sharing their memories to make this history possible. I would also like to thank my Archive Committee for their help and diligence in the creation of this history.

Though the District was formed in 1985, it became a "dark" district for some time due to lack of participation and it also experienced a "downsizing" during the Pandemic in 2020-2022. The district, wisely, went

to Zoom meetings and moved their monthly meetings to a location at Willow Springs Clubhouse in Soulsbyville to accommodate all who chose not to participate in live meetings, but rather Zooming in to participate.

This year (October 2024), District 33 is co-hosting with District 30, CNIA Mini PRAASA in Angels Camp. Our District is responsible for the snack bar, overseeing all food (catered) and serving food. There is much interest in this event, and many are looking forward to participating.

It is apparent District 33 is now thriving and many new members are participating. There were many lean years, but many dedicated members kept the District possible. The District is definitely “growing.”

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History by Kathy M, District 33 Archivist/Curator – Panel 74

Edited and Revised by: Jeanine S, Lisa H, and Rayna C -- Archive Committee Members

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“Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to him and your fellows, Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you – until then.”

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book, pg. 164)

Appendix A

- Dave's Plumbing, 5 meetings a week
- Groveland Christian Church - How Group: 1 meeting a week
- Maynords: 5 meetings a week
- Sonora Alano Club: 22 meetings a week
- St. Matthews Church: 2 meetings a week
- St. Patrick's Church - Men's Stag - 1 meeting a week
- Tuolumne United Methodist Church - The Duck Squad - 1 meeting a week
- Twain Harte Bible Church - Turning Point Group: 1 meeting a week
- Veteran's Hall - Experience, Strength & Hope, Primary Porpoise Young People Group, and Friendship Group - 3 meetings a week
- Willow Springs Clubhouse: 8 meetings a week, 2 District meetings a month

Appendix B

December 2, 1985, Letter From Loretta P to Annie at Area 07:

Dated 12/2/85 - "Dear Annie - Enclosed is group information for District 33. This is the best we can do at present. Hopefully, I think it is pretty darn good for a small community. Don't you?"

"I have been elected to serve as District Committee Member & hope that my involvement at Area meetings & assemblies will grow. I am looking forward to the next meeting & hope you will advise me of the time & place as soon as possible as I need to make necessary plans.

"If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely, Loretta P Sonora, CA."

Appendix C

List of Known DCM's starting from 1985 - District was dark after Loretta for approximately 3 years. Note: The dates are not presently known for all DCM Panels or are they in exact order here.

Loretta P - DCM 1985

Tripp - DCM

Larry S - Acting DCM

Perry A - DCM

Sheila - DCM

Gordon - DCM

Gina - DCM

Jason C - DCM

Bob H - DCM 3 Panels; 1) 1994-1996 2) _____ 3) _____

Drew R - DCM (2020-2024) - Panels 70, 72 and 74 - (Presently DCM Panel 74 - 2024-2026)

Appendix D

Assemblies Held in District 33: The District has hosted and co-hosted assemblies here in Tuolumne County. As noted by our present DCM, Drew R and Bob H, a fondly remembered Pre-Conference assembly was held at Long Barn at the ice rink in 2005. It was a great time and really cold. Tim M ran a BBQ business here for a long time and provided the BBQ. The past Winter Assembly was held here at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds and the Post Conference Assembly was held at the Opera Hall in 2009. Bob's Men's meeting cooked BBQ. Many local AA members volunteered to setup, cleanup, and provide coverage during the assembly,

This sheet is updated by the Area Alternate Chair. Last update: 7/20/2024

Year	Winter	Pre-Conference	Post Conference	Fall
2026				Tracy (37)
2025	Sonora (33)	Anderson (9,11)	Nevada (20)	Angels Camp (30,33)
2024	Merced (53)	Denair (36)	Huron (55)	Placerville (22)
2023	Gridley (57)	Tracy (37)	Chico (15)	Marysville/Yuba City (19)
2022	Zoom	Auburn (21)	Placerville (22)	Zoom
2021	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom
2020	Sacramento (54)	Zoom	Zoom	Visalia (55)
2019	Selma (53)	Nevada City (20)	Woodland (17)	Placerville (22)
2018	Roseville (21)	Jamestown (33)	Clovis (41,42)	Sacramento (24,25)
2017	Paradise (15)	Modesto (56)	Yuba City (19)	Leornore (47)
2016	Redding (11)	Madera (40)	St. Shasta (09)	Fresno (53)
2015	Sonora (33)	Selma (43)	Sacramento (23,24,25,27,29)	Placerville (22)
2014	Modesto (56)	Woodland (17)	Sacramento (54)	Paradise (15)
2013	Yuba City(19)	Lemoore (47)	Yreka (09)	Angels Camp(30)
2012	Merced (46)	Lodi (31,32)	Rocklin (21)	Modesto (33,56)
2011	Red Bluff (11)	Lemoore (47,49,55)	Placerville (22)	Chico (15)
2010	Yuba City (19)	Mt. Shasta (09)	Fresno (53)	Sacramento (23,24,25,27,29)
2009	Placerville (22)	Woodland (17)	Sonora (33)	Grass Valley (20)
2008	Red Bluff (11)	Manteca (32)	Jackson (30)	Fresno (41,42,43)
2007	W Sacramento (53,54)	Mt. Shasta (09)	Roseville (21)	Visalia (47,49)
2006	Grass Valley (20)	Placerville (22)	Woodland (17)	Chico (15)
2005	Plymouth (30)	Sonora (33)	Modesto (34)	Red Bluff (11)
2004	Fresno (41)	Yreka (09)	Visalia (47)	Mariposa (40)
2003	Manteca (32)	Lodi (31)	Placerville (22)	Merced (36)
2002	Turlock (34)	Auburn (21)	Nevada City (20)	Chico (15)
2001	Fresno (43)	Yuba City (19)	Angels Camp (30)	Woodland (17)
2000	Sacramento (54)	Roseville (27)	Woodland (17)	Mariposa (40)

Appendix E

Group Inventory

The outcome of the 2009 Group Inventory was not addressed in the AA History Book. But it is noteworthy that the District was proactive in carrying the message of recovery by conducting an inventory. The following is a list of topics they addressed:

- What is the basic purpose of our group (district)?
- What can our group (District do to carry the message)?
- Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
- Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
- Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?
- Does our group/district do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service?
- What has our group done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community - physicians, clergy, court officials, educators - those that are first to see the alcoholics in need of help.
- How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?
- Do new members stick with us or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we do as a group (district) to retain members?

Appendix F

AA History Book - Contents

AA Preamble

GSR Preamble Responsibility Declaration

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2. Treasurer's Reports
3. District Workshops
4. Area Accents (CNIA) September 2017-April 2019
5. District Special Events
 - a. Unity Day
 - b. Area Assemblies – Pre-Conf Assembly, Long Barn Lodge District 33, April 2018
 - c. Sierra Serenity, Hurst Ranch, Jamestown 2018, 2019
6. Group/Meeting Histories
 - a. Tuolumne County, 1983, 1988, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018 - Group Meeting Schedules
7. Personal Stories of District Members

Appendix G

Bob H Memoirs

Bob has been sober since 2/25/92. Bob's Home Group is the Experience Strength and Hope Group - and presently the GSR for Panel 74. He attended meetings in Tuolumne County (Groveland) 1992. Paul Jessen, a friend and drinking buddy, let Bob stay under his house several months where he sobered up in February 1992.

He has served as DCM over 3 panels (dates 1994-96 - Bob was both DCM during a full panel and DCM for two interim panels. He has served in many District positions over the years - District Grapevine Chair, PI/CPC Chair, Hotline Chair, Area Grapevine Chair (Panel 54). Bob's sponsor, "Pizza Bob," told him he was to become a "student of the Big Book."

Bob donated his DCM handbook dated 1998. It has District minutes and treasury reports.

As Bob Remembers the District - "Perry A was DCM when the district went dark band had no representation. It had no reimbursement for district travel and expenses during Bob's service.

"Sheila S. (AA member) moved from the Santa Cruz area and was instrumental in reopening District 33 in 1994 (approx.). Sheila became the new DCM. The opening balance for the District was \$8.37. There was no Alternate DCM at that time, so Bob stepped up to become the alternate DCM. He went to the Area meetings once a month with Sheila. Sheila became ill was unable to represent the District and Bob then became DCM for District 33. This was during Panel 48 or 50. Joe Burns was the Delegate at the time. There was a full complement of chairpersons for the District. The hotline, 'Motherlode Answering Service' was contacted and became the service for the Districts Hotline. See receipts in his book (1994).

“Mother Lode Group held a Back to Basics Beginners meeting based on the book by AA member, Wally P., where beginners could attend and complete their 12 Steps in 4-weeks.

“In May of 2000, we invited Wally P. to bring his one-day workshop to Sonora. It was held at the fairgrounds and was attended by 150 individuals. With the help of a friend from Pacific Telephone (Archie Hoag) we created a direct telephone line to a man in Vermont who got sober with Bill W. in the Oxford Groups. He was 96 when we talked to him.”

Bob is donating to the Archives his copy of Back to Basics signed by Wally P. on 5/6/2000.

“Bill D. & Miss Connie held a weekly Big Book Study and invited 6-8 members to their home. They would cook dinner for us and we’d have homemade dessert after the meeting. There was always a bowlful of colored markers on the coffee table. We would watch a VHS of ‘The Big Book presented by Joe McQuaney,’ followed by Bill D. narrating the first 164 pages of the Big Book out loud while telling us what passages we needed to highlight. (Bill learned to read after he came to AA and was led through the Big Book by his sponsor.) Some members attended Bill’s book study more than one time and some would bring their new sponsees.”

Appendix H

Mary D - Interviewed by Kathy M on 7/23/24; Mary is married to Marvin for 40 years (52 years knowing each other).

Mary’s Sobriety Date: 2/16/1985 Marvin 8/6/85

Where - Sonora

Service Work - At the District level

“When Area was putting Districts together it was suggested that Tuolumne and Calaveras County become a united district. John the Cop, Tom H. and others felt Tuolumne County should be a separate District. They encouraged Loretta to be DCM. The last couple of years of her life Loretta was Mary’s Sponsor and shared this with her.

“At a Jamestown Sunday morning meeting, Heather (who was the outgoing (DCM) announced they needed a Literature Chairperson for the next panel. Mary became the Literature Chair. For the following panels she held positions as Hotline Chair, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, both one panel. She was a GSR for Willow Springs Fellowship for one panel. She took notes and still has the whole notebook. In 2018 she was diagnosed with a neurological condition and resign as District Treasurer.

“Her first service commitment was Secretary of a noon meeting at the Alano Club on Stockton Rd. in Sonora in 1985.

“Both Mary and her husband were involved in the Willow Springs Fellowship.

“Sponsorship - Mary had several longtime Sponsors and a current sponsor that lives in Murphys. All women involved in service at District or their home groups. They carried the message of Sobriety, Steps and Traditions, and Service to many. Her previous two sponsors Loretta P. and Judy K. passed. She meets with her current sponsor on a regular basis. Mary currently sponsors four women, and they also sponsor women.

“In 1986 Chris G. and Mary attended their first AA Women to Women annual Conference in Sacramento. The following year they brought Kathy H. in her first year of sobriety with them. The Tuolumne County women that attended in 2024 were approximately 25.

“She presently attends a Women’s Meeting, a Daily Reflections meeting in Murphys, or other meetings. She attends a Zoom Speaker meeting (The Great Fact) that originated on the East Coast during Covid. It is held every night. Nightly attendees are between 350 - 500.”

Mary recalls the following DCM’s:

Loretta P.

Heather - DCM

Tripp - DCM

Gordon - DCM

Gina - DCM

Jason C - DCM

Bob H - DCM 3 Panels

Drew - DCM 2-3 Panels

Appendix I

Bill C Memoir Recorded by Grant C, his Son - by Rayna C, Archivist 2009-2011.

“The nucleus of the first and vital formation of an AA mtg which was to spawn AA in Tuolumne Co came in the Summer of 1962. The point made for this was Bo B who had come from Stockton to work in Tuol Co as a carpenter. What passed for an AA hotline in those days was his phone # under the heading of special notices in the Union Democrat. My dad called that # and got 12 stepped (*sic*) by Bo. Another man by the name of Tom Holloway recently retired from Uni-Royal Rubber moved up here with his wife who had an inheritance with the Post family.

“This originated the Sunday night ‘Dinosaur’ mtg. At the Veteran’s Hall Sonora. The mtg was set at an hour and half because it was once a week and the only mtg on occasion Bay Area people wood (*sic*) drop by and traveler would know that we had a mtg. Sunny W came in 1965 and stayed. He was a woodsman and had quite a story. Bob C came as a bartender from Tuol. City and stayed sober and then move to Modesto and married Maruita. They have both passed on.

“In about 1970 Bob S moved up from the Bay Area and stayed. He had sobered up since 1950 and had single handedly take AA. H&I into Sierra Conservation Center.

“In 1971 with my first stab at sobriety there was an off and on mtg. in Tuol City in the basement of the Methodist Church where the Ducks Mtg now takes place.

“About the same time San Joaquin Co. opened up their alcohol rehab in Murphys taking over the old tuberculous ward of the co. hospital. The main bldg. burned down and was taken over by the Kartz Winery people. The San Joaquin Co still runs a rehab down in French Camp.

“In 1976 the state funded a drop in center and alcohol info. Service which was across the street on Steward (*sic*) “Stewart” Street from Restano Liquors. Bob and Jeanie Karp ran that house.

“The first attempt at an Alano Club came in 1982 on Sheperd St. or mtg hall rather. Then it moved to Stockton St.”

Appendix I

Perry A Memoirs

The following is a personal memoir from Perry A, wherein he describes the early formation of the District: “In 1989, groups were small (6-8 people in an AA meeting). The meetings were held in a ‘little, tiny meeting room, an L-shaped building on Stockton Street, across from the train.’ Perry relates that ‘singleness of purpose was hotly debated in those years’.

“District meetings were held at Giovanni’s Café on Mono Way, now called My Garden Café. The Motherlode Group was the major financial contributor to the District. The Twain Harte Group donated as well. There wasn’t full participation in donations, and they struggled to survive. But they always went to all of the events. Cindy S and Diana R went to the assemblies and district meetings. There was no reimbursement for travel expenses.

“Perry remembers his sponsor, Larry S (now deceased), who had a sobriety date of 1962 and was sponsored by Chuck C. They worked in the grocery business together. Larry was 75 when Perry met him. Larry always said, ‘he wanted to drink Canada dry.’ When Larry arrived in Sonora, District 33 was ‘dark’ Larry was acting as DCM when he met him. He was trying to promote participation for the District. Their primary responsibilities each month was to the make sure the District had enough money to print meeting schedules. They would meet and trifold the schedules and then distribute them. This was their main focus. Perry was DCM for two years. He was in General Service from 1993 - 2010.”

Appendix K

First Website was created by Peter S in 2011. (This history was submitted by Rayna C, a member of the present Archive Committee and past Archivist 2009-2011).

“The web site started in June 2010 when several members of District 33 recommended me to do the site for District 33 which covers Tuolumne County. Tripp, our esteemed District Committee Member (DCM) suggested the name www.district33.org to be consistent with other Districts in the Area. The ‘cnia’ refers to California Northern Interior Area which is our mother organization. I researched a few web hosting services and chose Go Daddy as being the most reliable and not too expensive. By July 2010, the first draft of the web site was operating and I started publicizing it for our members. One of my first activities was a wife beater shirt with the site name printed on it with magic marker. I still have it for summer wear. I also made a poster for Unity Day with the web name. Since then, I’ve announced it at meetings and pointed out that it has meeting schedules and maps as well as events, contacts and the hot-line. Eventually, I see it expanding to include chat room for people who can’t make a meeting, Q&A sections on alcohol, educational material on, for example, the wide variety of recovery rates we hear quoted around the rooms, tips on how to use Facebook and twitter to enhance sobriety without losing anonymity.

“In my opinion, the web is an important tool for twelve step work and I look forward to a much more electronic program in the future to improve accessibility to everyone who wants to get sober.”

Present Website: aasonora.org - District 33 has recently created a new website and efforts are ongoing to create a user friendly and informative website for all alcoholics and those who still suffer.

DCM Writes to District 33 AA Members via Website During Covid 19:

The following message was written by Drew R, DCM, on March 22, 2020, during the height of Covid 19 to the District 33 AA fellowship:

“I truly hope this message finds you not only well, but happy, joyous and free.

“The Governor of the State of California has asked citizens to shelter in place and not meet in groups. AA meetings across the state and country have shuttered. As a body, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, although autonomous, has always respected all laws and mandates.

“If people want to ignore these requests, their health and the health of others they can do as they wish. Certainly, two or more people who meet to share sobriety can find the language of the heart and call themselves a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, as long as they have no other affiliation.

“If anyone is struggling with getting the Zoom ball rolling, we need to reach out and help them.

“These views are mine and to the best of my knowledge AA as a whole. I am but a trusted servant, forever humbled in my service to all of you.”

“Be well, stay well, In Love & Service,”

Drew R.
DCM Dist 33

February 5, 2024: Our present DCM, Drew R, writes on our website the following:

“It is an absolute honor to serve you, our fellowship and AA as District 33’s DCM. I am also presently serving as the Panel 74 California Northern Interior Area 07 Finance Committee Chair. I write this today to inform you that we have a Treasurer, a treasury and the treasury has money in it. All good things! Our District Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Willow Springs Clubhouse at 7pm, the meetings are also on Zoom ID#85081380939 PW 1234. Please join us, all are welcome.

“District 33 held a 2023 Spending Plan meeting last Fall where we ratified our budget and spending plan for the 2024 year. At this meeting we also voted as a district committee, with substantial unanimity, to increase our prudent reserve from \$1500 to \$2000 and to put it in a savings account. It has been over two years since we’ve been able to secure our prudent reserve and now have enough money in the bank to meet our projected financial needs for 2024.

“Any ‘excess’ monies above and beyond the amount projected in the 2024 Spending Plan will be used to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers within Tuolumne County. Our district committee operates with sound fiscal practices and is prudent with money that is contributed to the district through the 7th Tradition. We have some great ideas moving forward that will ensure we never accumulate ‘perilous wealth’ and would enjoy hearing your ideas.

“I encourage any person interested in this subject and ways to carry the message to attend all district meetings so they can be in full knowledge of our financial plans and expenditure. The District will also be releasing a report that contains our Spending Plan and the current Treasurer’s Report.

“7th Tradition contributions made to the group do many things, one of which is to fund their GSR to travel to assemblies and carry the group’s conscience to our delegate. It is vital to the longevity and structure of Alcoholics Anonymous for this to happen. It’s how the message is carried to the alcoholic that still suffers, as well as the one

that is yet to be born! Not only that, our personal 7th Tradition contributions are considered spiritual in nature. In light of the current interest within our fellowship of its finances, the District will be scheduling a 7th Tradition workshop. Please consider attending with your ideas on carrying the message of recovery within our community.

“As DCM, I can assure you that if the District treasury becomes too full, we as a committee, will let groups know and suggest that they adjust their ‘splits’.”

Appendix L

Archivist – John P

“As archivist for District 33, Panel 70, I was responsible for documenting and collecting samples of our district Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship and experience. It was during a very momentous time in our history: The Covid Pandemic. Our meetings were shut down for many months forcing us to find new ways to stay sober and connected.

“What I was able to add to the archive were two audio interviews, one from our District Committee Member and another from a regular member of our fellowship. The ‘real time’ interviews during Covid helped to document and outline how we moved from in-person meetings to online ‘Zoom’ meetings. The discussion also captures what life was like and the timeline of events during unprecedented change.

“As an addendum to the audio interviews, I conducted a survey of the Dist. 33 fellowship from a cross section of its members. I asked everyone who would participate to write down their experiences across several topics, including what it was like to attend meetings virtually, how it affected sponsorship and their views on how they coped during that time. Surveys were collected at the meetings I attended as well as our annual Unity Day.”

Appendix M

Guidelines

“The purpose of this ‘Guidelines’ document is exactly that, to provide suggestions, never rules, to help the District’s trusted servants and committees function effectively. New trusted servants and new committee members will benefit from the experience, strength and hope of their predecessors. Departing from the Guidelines is entirely appropriate if the departure is within the spirit of the Traditions, especially Traditions 2 and 4. The guidelines will change over time and so it is anticipated that trusted servants and committee members will suggest modifications as appropriate.

“We must always remember: our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.” Alcoholics Anonymous”, Fourth Edition, June 4, 2004