

Meeting Notes from July 11, 2026

Grounded in the Cloud Business Meeting

Treasury Report & Financial Status

- **Cash on hand:** \$2,242.14
- **Total donations (this period):** \$2,700
 - PayPal: \$2,230
 - Venmo: \$426
 - Zelle: \$81
- **Expenses:** \$718.69
- Recent distributions made: \$670 to Central Office; \$495 split across Area Assembly, General Services, and H&I
- \$165 Gold Can donation initially appeared missing — later confirmed paid directly from Venmo

Approved Donation Distribution

- Maintain \$615 reserve (\$500 minimum prudent reserve to avoid checking fees, plus miscellaneous expenses)
- **Approved for distribution:** \$1,462 total
 - 50% to Central Office: \$731
 - 12.5% each (\$183): Gold Can, H&I, General Services, and Area Assembly
- Treasury report and recommendations passed unanimously

Secretary Transitions & Commitments

- Elections scheduled for next week; secretaries tasked with finding their own replacements across all 14 meeting slots
- Sobriety requirement: motion to change from "six months minimum" to "no less than three months, six months recommended"
 - Allows discretion for engaged newer members; motion seconded, with final language to be finalized
- Co-secretaryship model endorsed as best practice for coverage and to reduce last-minute scramble
- Secretary responsibilities to be formalized in written guidance ("strongly suggested" rather than mandatory, per group conscience):
 - Arrive 10–15 minutes early (top of the hour)
 - Staff all meeting commitments (door, timer, etc.)
 - Meetings must end on time
- Communication gap flagged — secretaries currently use different channels (email, text, etc.)
 - Proposal: a WhatsApp group for secretaries only, for announcements and updates
- Website status board proposed: visual checklist showing which secretary slots are filled vs. open

Central Office, Gold Can & Other Business

- Central Office: 24/7 phone access for people in need; coffee and chat Saturdays, noon–1:30pm
 - First edition Big Book reissued and available at Central Office
 - LA Central Office is a registered nonprofit; bylaws being revised and updated (last done in 2005)
- Gold Can: supports ASL sign-language interpreters for 2–3 AA meetings per month; direct donations possible via their website
- Website additions discussed:
 - Link to Central Office online bookstore (alternative to Amazon for books)
 - External links to Central Office and Gold Can resources
- H&I outreach: Tim to reconnect with Carlos to explore expanded involvement
- Potential new meetings floated (e.g., daytime or men's meeting expansion) for trustees to discuss
- Treasury report and meeting notes to be posted under the Governance section of the Grounded website

Next Steps (Action Items)

- **Finalize and circulate the secretary guidance document (Tim)** — include sobriety requirement (3-month minimum, 6 recommended), co-secretary option, arrival time, commitment-staffing expectations, and meeting end-time standard
- **Set up a WhatsApp group for secretaries (Tim)** — announcements-only channel to replace fragmented email/text communication
- **Build the secretary availability status board on the website (Tim)** — visual checklist of filled vs. open slots across all 14 meetings
- **Add Central Office and Gold Can links to the website (Tim)** — include bookstore link and QR card image; Cheryl to send card photo and lacoa.org reference
- **Post the treasury report and meeting notes to the website (Tim)** — under the Governance section for transparency
- **Reconnect with Carlos on H&I outreach (Tim)** — explore expanded H&I involvement and other ways to grow group participation

Proposed New Language — Secretary Guidelines

Draft language offered for the group's consideration:

A word before the guidelines

"None of what follows is a rule — in keeping with our traditions, these are guidelines our group conscience is adopting to help our secretaries succeed and to keep our meetings running smoothly. Think of them as what we've found works, offered in a spirit of support rather than obligation."

Sobriety requirement

"We suggest that secretaries have no less than three months of sobriety, with six months recommended. This gives us room to welcome an engaged newer member when the enthusiasm and reliability are clearly there, while still pointing to six months as the ideal."

Co-secretary option

"We encourage secretaries to consider serving as co-secretaries wherever it helps. Sharing a commitment gives us better coverage, an easy backup when life happens, and takes the pressure off any one person — it's simply a good way to keep a meeting well-supported."

Staffing meeting commitments

"We invite secretaries to help see that the meeting's commitments — door, timer, and the like — are covered by regular volunteers, only calling on others the day of as needed. Many hands make this light, and it's a gentle way to get others involved in service."

Arrival, readiness, and ending on time

"To best serve the group secretaries are strongly encouraged to arrive ten to fifteen minutes before the meeting and to be fully ready to go by the scheduled meeting start time — supporting documents, shared files, and scripts all open and set — so we can begin right on time. And out of respect for everyone's schedule, it's important that we end the meeting on time as well."

A closing note

"These are offered as our group's best practices — always subject to discretion, common sense, and our ongoing group conscience."

Grounded in the Cloud — Online AA Meetings

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