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**NORTH CAROLINA  
General Service Committee  
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

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**VIRTUAL SPRING ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
“A NEW DAY”  
MAY 22, 2021**

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SECRETARY  
PO Box 470275  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28247

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#	MAIN MOTIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION TAKEN	PG.
1.	Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Fall Assembly Meeting	Passed without objection	2
2.	Agenda Item 1: Retain the Subcommittee as presently composed and configured, but change the subcommittee schedule to allow site recommendations for Winter and Summer Committee meetings to be made no later than two years prior to the year of the event.	Passed with substantial unanimity	4

### **Opening of the Virtual Committee Meeting**

Denise M., Area 51 Chair, called the Virtual meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Newton P, Past Delegate and Past Trustee at Large U.S. read “Why Do We Need A Conference?” from the AA Service Manual:

*The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life. “We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services. “We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”*

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### **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

Delegate Rainer L. introduced our guest speaker for the Assembly, Carolyn W., AAWS Non-Trustee Director, who will speak at 6.00 pm.

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### **Agenda Overview:**

Denise M. introduced our Zoom Operators for the day and the roll of each person. We were advised how to reach the Zoom Ops team for operations questions, and who to reach out to for Assembly questions.

She discussed the Fall Assembly, scheduled in person at Lake Junaluska November 13-14, 2021. We were given information regarding hotel choices and food options were mentioned as well. As always, it is important to support our host hotel.

A poll was launched to determine the number of voting members for the day, and there were 115 members, making the quorum 77.

Denise went through the agenda, including our speaker and workshops for the evening. The agenda was adopted with no objection.

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### **Adoption of the Rules of Order**

Alt. Chair Clayborne reviewed Roberts Rules of Order as they relate to our agenda and Denise asked if there were any objections to their adoption. Hearing none, the Rules of Order were adopted.

**Approve Minutes of the 2020 Fall Assembly Meeting:**

The reading of the minutes was waived, and Denise asked if there were any additions or changes. There were none. Roger A., DCM D11 moved to approve the minutes of the 2020 Fall Assembly, and it was seconded by Sue H., DCM D34.

**Vote:**

For: 119, no: 0. The motion passed without opposition.

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Denise reminded everyone that the default now is to not receive postal mailings from the Area. If you require postal mailings, inform the registrar that you would like to opt in.

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**Treasurer's Report:** Steve reviewed the 1st quarter 2021 financial statements. There was an opening balance of \$27,461, net gain of \$11,442 and an ending balance of \$39,233. 8.89% of the groups in Area 51 contributed. **See attached report.**

Sue H., DCM-D34 moved to accept the financial report, and it was seconded by Marty M, PI Coordinator.

**Vote:**

For: 112; no: 1.

There was no minority opinion given. Motion passed with substantial unanimity.

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**Registrar's Report:** Greg K. advised that from January 1st to May 13<sup>th</sup>, Greg made a combined total of 371 updates in our area database and a similar amount in the Fellowship Connection (FC) database. We currently have 1,089 regular groups with 19,562 members and 52 correctional facility groups with 1,272 members. He clarified what a group number refers to, and the improved system of the Fellowship Connection (FC).

Greg gave an update on the mailing of GSR and DCM kits, and reminded us that he is available if he can be useful to any groups or districts. **See attached report.**

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**Delegates Report:** Rainer L. opened his report by welcoming all who are new to General Service.

He remarked that the 49 Advisory Actions and 89 Committee Considerations from the Conference would be challenging to cover in a one-hour report. He gave an overview of the Conference process, which began with presentations, workshops, sharing sessions and committee sessions. Each committee discussed their agenda items and developed recommendations or considerations which were then brought to the Conference for further discussion.

Rainer discussed the motion to censure the Board that was assigned to the Trustees Committee, the one he served on. In the 71 year history of the GSC, there have been 3 motions to censure, in 1995, 2018, and 2021. The 2021 censure dealt with concerns of authority and transparency underscored by failed communication. The Trustees Committee did not recommend censure, but did make some recommendations to improve communication.

There will be a three year trial of more equitable distribution of workload, moving the submission deadline up to Sept. 15 for agenda items.

Rainer continued by covering additional Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations:

- Approved the conversion of written conference approved material into video format.
- Approved two new video PSAs: "Parties" and "Walls".
- Approved AA podcasts to provide sharing within the fellowship and for sharing information about AA to the public.
- Draft pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals will be delivered to the 2022 Conference for approval.
- AA Grapevine Board will implement an Instagram page and report account activity to 2022 Conference.
- Approved the development of a Fifth Edition of the Big Book.
- Approved the development of a 'plain language' edition of the Big Book to supplement, not replace, the Fourth Edition. A progress report or draft will be presented at the 2022 Conference.

Rainer discussed the motion to create a 94th Area for virtual groups that was forwarded from Area 51, saying it was one of 6 motions received addressing the participation of online-only groups. The Policy & Admissions Committee discussed those 6 motions, and made a recommendation that the US/Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups by listing them in their preferred district and Area. This motion failed, was reconsidered, and then passed. This was followed by an additional recommendation that the GSB form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups within the US/Canada General Service Structure.

Additional floor actions included:

- Remove the word "fellowship" from the Preamble.
- Change 'men and women' to 'people' in the Preamble.

- Retain the current pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" and approve the revised version.
- Add long form of Tradition at the end of each essay of the Twelve and Twelve.
- Continue the use of the Seven deadly Sins without specific mention of 'rape' in Step 6 of the Twelve and Twelve.
- Replace the word "opposite sex" with the word "partner" on page 117 in the Twelve and Twelve.
- Print a Fourth Edition of Alcoholicos Anonimous with updated stories.

Rainer closed by reflecting on the theme of the General Service Conference, "AA In A Time of Change". **See attached report.**

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#### **Alt. Delegate Report**

Julie covered some financial highlights from GSO. Received a record breaking \$10.26 million in 7th Tradition contributions! This covered 94.9% of the cost of services.

Additional statistics:

- AAWS publishing gross profits were \$6.58 million, down 30%. Operating expenses were nearly what was budgeted.
- Grapevine print subscriptions decreased 4.5% in 2020, but the online and mobile app magazine increased 7.7%.
- Gv gross profits: \$1.23M for magazine and \$354,304 for other items. Operating expenses: \$1.91M. Net loss of \$298,699.
- La Viña's circulation decreased by 36.6%.
- There are 1,473,390 AA members and 71,190 groups.
- The Prudent Reserve had a \$4 million draw down last year. Currently it holds 9.27 months of operating expenses.

Julie reviewed the preconferences held earlier this year: 14 virtual and 1 in person totaling 32 hours. Literature had the most attendees.

She closed by thanking everyone for the invitations to travel virtually across the state. **See attached report.**

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#### **Literature Report**

Pat B., our Area 51 Literature Coordinator hinted broadly for invitations to hold workshops or sell literature now that we are coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. He summarized virtual workshops he has organized, the first on "Conference Approved Literature: What is it? How did it Come About? Why is it Important?" and the second on the GSO RIPTAB (Researching Issues and Possible Solutions To Accessing our Book) video. This centered around Literature items that were to be discussed at Conference.

With the announcement of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book, he is planning another workshop "Sharing your experience, strength, and hope in writing" focused on submitting stories for inclusion in the new edition. **See attached report.**

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#### **Grapevine Report**

Brooks enthusiastically reported being in touch with two new Grapevine reps, and thanked us for allowing her to "carry the message" through the Grapevine. Continue to put Grapevine reps in contact with her.

She announced the combo Grapevine/La Vina workshop in Raleigh in June, with D30 Grapevine coordinator Julian, adding La Vina is celebrating 25 years.

Brooks covered the new publications: "Free on the Inside: Stories of AA Recovery in Prison" and "Mujeres en AA: Historias de mujeres pioneras e hispanohablantes que se han recuperado del alcoholismo". She encouraged us to sign up for a subscription to the Grapevine, as that is the "best way to support our 'meeting in print'". **See attached report.**

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#### **Archives Report:**

Archivist Keith M. reported that the "Archives Committee continues to digitize objects in the repository. This will be an ongoing process until all items such as audio tapes, paper records and films are digitized and made available via an online resource for Area 51 AA members to utilize."

He continues to conduct oral histories of members in our Area with more than 35 years of sobriety, and he invited everyone to send suggestions to him if they know of someone who meets the criteria.

Keith applied for help from the NC State Archives in their 'Traveling Archives Program' and was accepted, so he is now receiving professional guidance on processing and digitizing our Archives.

He invited everyone to email him if they want historical information or would like to arrange for a workshop to be done at their home group or District. **See attached report.**

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### **Budget and Finance Report**

Paul M., DCM D33 and Chair of the B&F Subcommittee advised that Area 51 received a contribution of \$11,725 from the 57<sup>th</sup> International Women's Conference and that they have discussed ways to gather suggestions from groups as to how this money and the current surplus should be sent.

The subcommittee also reviewed the GSR Unity Fund agenda item and plan to bring another motion for this to the Summer Committee meeting. **See attached report.**

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### **Growth and Maintenance Report**

Subcommittee Chair Dale L., DCM D70 stated the purpose of the Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee is to review, support and advise Area 51 on initiatives requested by the Area Chair, of which there are currently 9.

The initiatives currently being discussed include an Area asset inventory, developing questions for an upcoming Area inventory, compiling a roster of Intergroups and Central Offices across the Area, ongoing updates to the P3 Manual, an Area 51 Website sub-page for the G&M subcommittee, the Area 51 Information Policy, investigating the feasibility of a mobile voting app for use at future Assemblies, and setting processes and procedures for handling future initiatives. The Technology subcommittee initiative is being reviewed by the Website subcommittee. **See attached report.**

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### **Site Investigation Report**

Lindsey S, Chair of the Site Investigation Sub Committee, reviewed the role of the Site Investigation subcommittee and reported that 5 bids have been received for the events to be held in 2023-2025. This is a low number of returned bids compared to the 44 requests sent out. Some hotels that have been renovating while their numbers were down and did not want to bid on smaller events that are 2 years out, such as our Winter and Summer Committee meetings. Although the number of bids is low, most of the bids received are reasonable. **See attached report.**

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**AGENDA ITEM #1: Retain the Site Investigation Subcommittee as presently composed and configured, but change the subcommittee schedule to allow site recommendations for Winter and Summer Committee meetings to be made no later than two years prior to the year of the event.**

**Background Information:** Site Investigation is responsible for soliciting and evaluating bid proposals from hotels interested in hosting Area 51 events.

**Process for Site Selection and Contract Signing:** During even numbered years, the Site Investigation standing subcommittee sends requests for proposals (RFPs) to appropriate sites able to host any of the 10 events for the two-year time period that is roughly three years out. For example, in 2018 the site subcommittee sent out RFPs to venues capable of hosting any of the four assemblies, eight committee meetings (four in conjunction with assemblies), and two state conventions in the time span from August 2021-July 2023. In 2020, the subcommittee sent out RFPs for events from August 2023-July 2025.

The site investigation subcommittee then spends the end of the even-numbered year (as in 2020) and part of the odd-numbered year (as in 2021) narrowing down the search, keeping in mind several variables such as cost to the area, cost to the membership (DCMs and GSRs who attend), location rotation, and site suitability for meeting space (breakout rooms, AV needs, etc.). Once they have determined the sites for the 10 events, then they bring forth a motion at the Summer Committee in the odd-numbered years (typically in August) and following Area Committee approval, the motion is brought forth for Assembly Approval in the Fall of odd-numbered years. Once the Assembly approves, the Area Chair reviews the contracts and negotiates final terms. Typically, the site subcommittee has already worked to get costs down and has narrowed the date ranges to match the appropriate windows for the events. The Area Chair makes sure the details are correct and signs the contracts for the 2-year period.

The Site Investigation Subcommittee has difficulty booking the Summer and Winter Committee events as hotels do not want to bid on smaller events (100 rooms or less) 3-4 years out. This change would allow the Site Investigation Subcommittee flexibility to procure additional bids 2-3 years out, leading to potential savings and expanding our geographical selection.

**Budgetary Impact:** There is no budgetary impact for this agenda item.

### **Discussion:**

Selena (GSR-FFB, D-32): You are probably going to hate this, but because those smaller venues feel the way that they do, and because of what has occurred as a result of COVID, have you guys not given any consideration to perhaps, like some of the other Areas throughout the United States, of making at least two or four of the smaller meetings on Zoom or virtual?

Viviana S. (DCM-D92): I am in the hotel business and have been for many years. I really think that two years in advance is too far away. Sometimes we mistakenly think that because it is so far away, we are going to get a good price, and sometimes, depending on the space in the hotel, you can get a better price if you are only one year out. So I think two years is too much. One year in advance will be more than enough time and I think it would be better to budget for the hotel and get better prices.

Greg K. (Area Registrar): Could someone from the Site Investigation subcommittee or Budget and Finance answer the question the first person asked, about maybe holding Committee meetings virtually?

Lindsey S (DCM-D43, Site Chair): We didn't actually talk about that as we don't believe that would be the Site Investigation subcommittee's decision to make. Right now we do have bids for all of those events, but they are going to be the same places we have always been going. We always hear we want some geographical diversity, so the ability to not have to book all of our small 2025 events right now and be able to book those either next year or 2023, just two years out from that event, would allow us to get more of that geographic diversity. I'm sure Area 51 would look into that in the future if we needed to.

Sue H. (DCM-D34): I served on the Site Investigation subcommittee last rotation through. So, my question is, should we just remove the whole year period for the Winter and Summer Committee meetings. For the Winter and Summer committee meetings, it would be nice if they could just pick it with the coordination of the Area Chair. They could do it six months out, a year out, two years out, whatever makes sense. They are smaller events and I do think two years is a bit too far out for some of them.

Dick F. (Past Delegate-P55): AA is self-correcting. This is the way it was done for several years and we changed it. And you know what, changing it back makes sense because it worked better then.

**Vote: For: 105; No: 16.** The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Minority Opinion:

Roger A. (DCM-D11): I think two years is a bit of a stretch for some of the smaller meetings, especially for the Committee meetings. I have to agree with what so many others said. I know it may be a little more work for the Site Investigation subcommittee, but at the same time, I think we are asking a bit much of those that may be hosting our meetings. So that is why I voted against it.

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#### **CPC Report**

Jon reviewed workshops that have been held and previewed upcoming workshops. The focus is on improving referrals to AA from the professional communities. He also noted that his contact list for cpc/pi representatives across the area has increased to 25. **See attached report.**

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#### **PI Report**

Marty reported on recent events he has attended, reviewed the workshop held earlier that day, and stated that he is ready to travel to hold workshops at home groups and district meetings. He is also available by phone or email if you have any questions. Please reach out! **See attached report.**

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#### **Corrections Report**

Kevin stated that one of the purposes of the Correctional Facility Committee is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who is confined in our correctional facilities. He went on to report that jails and prisons are currently closed to AA volunteers and will likely require vaccinations when they do allow meetings back inside, however correspondence with members behind the walls continues. Though Freedom From Bondage was cancelled last year, the hotel rolled the deposit over for next year's event. He then reviewed more specific details about some facilities and asked to be kept informed of local prisons and jails as things, hopefully, open up again. **See attached report.**

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#### **Website Subcommittee Report**

Sue reported that the subcommittee meets once a month. Items currently under consideration are updating the P3 with website subcommittee policies, reviewing content on the website to see if any can be made more public (not password protected), and exploring other technologies that can be used to assist the fellowship. If you are interested in participating on the subcommittee, reach out to Sue for more information. **See attached report.**

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#### **Spanish-Language Report**

Rick reviewed on events attended as well as upcoming events, including the State Convention where he will provide translation services. He also reported that translation equipment has been inventoried. **See attached report.**

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#### **Webmaster Report**

Kavaruss reviewed the many items he is working on as webmaster. These include working with districts and intergroups to get meetings synced to the Area webpage and the Meeting Guide app; improving the performance and the user experience of the website; updating group change forms; streamlining the contribution process; and ensuring each of the Area Officers, Coordinators, and State Convention and Subcommittee chairs are listed in the Contacts dropdown. If you have events you would like posed on the site, reach out to Kavaruss or the website subcommittee. Events must adhere to the website policies to be posted. To subscribe for notification of events and other postings, submit your email address in the mailing list section at the bottom of the homepage. **See attached report.**

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#### **State Convention Report**

Elizabeth reported that the State Convention will be held virtually this year and there will be no fee to attend. Despite the virtual format, the Committee has worked hard to make it as close to an in-person experience as possible. The Convention will have six

speakers, two workshops, two panels, marathon meetings, AA trivia, and a dance. In addition, breakout rooms will be available so attendees can spend some time with friends. **See attached report.**

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#### **Treatment Facilities Report**

Stanley reviewed his activities this year which included sending a letter of introduction to Treatment Facilities across the state, attending various service events, contacting all DCMs to ensure current local TF coordinator contact information, and facilitating setting up in person meetings in Treatment Facilities with local TF committees. He announced that he is available to conduct workshops when requested and is ready to help in any way with meetings in Treatment Facilities. **See attached report.**

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#### **Accessibilities Report**

Karen reported that she is working on a survey to send to all Districts in Area 51 to assess the accessibility needs there. She has been working with D32 and D33 to host workshops and create local accessibility committees. She is available to help other districts and homegroups as well. Karen talked about two cases that have been brought to her attention where AA members were excluded from closed meetings because they required professional assistance (an interpreter or aide). She emphasized the importance of allowing professionals into closed meetings when they are assisting members to ensure the hand of AA is available. Karen is holding bi-weekly Zoom meetings focusing on accessibilities issues and encouraged members to join her.

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#### **New Business:**

Karen B. (Accessibilities): During the accessibilities workshop this morning, it was brought to my attention that it may be difficult for people to read and understand. I don't know if any of you have read the closed captioning while it was going across, but it can be very humorous in what it says! They were wondering if, at the Assembly, there was a possibility of having an ASL interpreter.

Stanley H. (Treatment Facilities): During the Treatment Facilities workshop this morning, we had a lively discussion. One of the questions I am trying to get answered is if it is OK for me to set up a committee so I can get some help with Bridging the Gap, and having liaisons with Districts and intergroup offices. There is a lot going on and it would be great to have some help!

Julie R. (Alternate Delegate): Madam Chair, we have a point of order. Rainer, you may unmute yourself.

Rainer L (Delegate): I appreciate what people are saying. These are things we need to hear, but we need to hear them in our sharing session, not in new business.

Susan B. (GSR, Just the Basics): I honestly don't know if this is new business. [After the difference between new business and sharing session was clarified, Susan decided it was new business and continued.] I am new at this, so thank you for your patience. If this is the correct way to do this, I would like to put forth a motion that we either make the Fall Assembly be hybrid so there are travel options but also that people have the option to attend remotely. I'm not really sure what the correct way to put that forth as a motion is.

Denise M. (Chair): Before we get the wording nailed down, it would need a second.

Roger A. (DCM-D1): I second.

Denise M.: I would like to work on the wording of this so we all understand what we are talking about before we open the floor for debate. The agreed upon wording is: "That the Fall 2021 Assembly be hybrid."

#### **Discussion:**

Rainer L. (Delegate): One thing that is going to need some serious considerations are the limitations of our venue. Julie was the Chair during contracting. If I remember previous discussions, Lake Junaluska is going to have a really hard time providing the AV and technical needs for us to hold a hybrid event. So binding us to that will create some contractual difficulty. At least that is my worry. Julie will perhaps be able to speak better to this.

Julie R. (Alternate Delegate): That is exactly what I raised my hand to speak to. During the contract negotiation process with Lake Junaluska, we contracted for microphones and speakers for our AV requirements. I am not sure what their wifi capabilities are or if we would have to use their equipment, bring our own equipment. I love the spirit of this motion, but by saying we are going to be a hybrid Assembly when we don't know if we can actually do that or not is really tying the hands of our Chair. I think the best thing to do, would be to trust our Chair to do the research, see if we can do it. The cost should not be a factor in our decision making. It is going to be expensive, I guarantee it. We just don't know and there is no way that we can find out today. Lake Junaluska also has a very relaxed communication style, so when you ask them a question, they will reply weeks later, instead of hours or days.

Catherine W. (DCM-D18): My concern is also about contractual agreements for room blocks. I am sure we made a commitment some time ago for how many rooms we would contract for and if we didn't meet that contract, what would be the financial implications of that?

Jamie M. (GSR Myers Park Group): My homegroup does hybrid and there is a lot of work that goes into that even with a small meeting. I love the idea. I just think there is a lot more to it than just saying "Yes" or "No". We would need to do a lot of research.

It is going to require computers and other equipment. My meeting has a speaker meeting and a study meeting. There is a lot that goes into making a meeting hybrid. I do love the idea. I just don't think it is a "Yes" or "No" question today.

Donna B. (Past Delegate): If my memory serves, usually if we have a floor action, we don't usually vote on a floor action unless there is a time concern. We usually refer it to the next Area Committee Meeting. I suggest that you do that here. That will give you time, hopefully, to do enough research for the Area Committee to vote on it. There would still be time to implement it if it seems feasible for the Fall Assembly.

Denise M.: So to clarify, to make sure I understand, as a fairly new Chair, this would be like an agenda item for us to research, provide background information, and bring forward at the Summer Committee meeting.

Donna B.: Yes.

Denise M.: So we won't do the debate, but we could hear opinions about this during the sharing session.

Donna B.: Certainly. But not to vote on it. It would also give the groups time for input.

Denise M.: Thank you for that help! So the motion that I have is "That the Fall 2021 Assembly be hybrid." I will work with Julie, who signed the contract with Lake Junaluska, talk to Lake Junaluska about their capabilities, provide the background information which will include how much the AV will be, and bring this to the Summer Committee Meeting. With the Committee meeting in August and the Assembly in November, that should give us enough time to do the research and plan the event, should it pass.

No point of orders with that plan, Julie? I can see there are some hands up. If you would like to comment on this particular agenda item, I am going to ask that you wait and make the comment during our sharing session a little later. If you have any other new business to bring forward, now would be the time to do that. Is there any other new business?

OK. Next up is our Website Notification Demo conducting by our webmaster Kavaruss. One of the updates to our website is the ability to sign up for email notifications. This includes meeting notices and the minutes from those meetings. This will be especially helpful with our new mailing policy where the default is to not receive postal mailings. Kavaruss will walk us through the process of signing up. And since we are virtual, I know everyone has a device in front of them right now. So let's all follow along during the demo and sign up for notifications.

Kavaruss C. (Webmaster), shared his screen and walked the Assembly through how to sign up for email notifications.

Questions during the Demo:

Jon T. (CPC): I understand getting to the website and entering an email address. Is there still a need to go to information for members and log in or will this let members access that as well?

Kavaruss: Great question. There are two different things that are happening there. One is members only access, which is what you are referring to in the Information for Members section. That will require a district username and password. Email notification is different. It is subscribing to the posts that are in the What's new, News section. For the Information for Members section, you will still need to log in for access to that.

Steve D. (Treasurer): Anyone could put their email address in and get notified. They wouldn't have to be an AA member, so you might be sending that to someone that is not an alcoholic.

Kavaruss: That is correct. The information that is in the posting, none of it is sensitive information. There will be links to documents that may contain sensitive information, but to access those documents, they would need to log into the website.

Donna B. (Past Delegate): Great job Kavaruss! I have already gotten some notifications. The only thing that concerned me a little bit was that when the email comes through, the sender is 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. If you happen to be checking your email where others can see, it's pretty obvious. I was wondering if that could be changed to NCGSC or something like that.

Kavaruss: That is a great point and something I had not considered. I will bring that back to the web committee. That definitely makes sense. Thank you for that suggestion.

Jonathan (GSR, Jumping Off Place): My internet is in and out here....what was that password again? Bills...?

Kavaruss: Oh, that was just a user I made up for the demonstration.

Denise thanked all the Coordinators, Officers and subcommittee chairs for all their hard work. She announced that the Spanish Translator position is vacant, explaining the responsibilities of that role is to translate documents such as flyers, agendas, minutes, etc.

Sharing Session:

Kenneth C. (Past Delegate): I just wanted to draw everyone's attention to the SSAASA flyer that was included with your background material. If you are not familiar, SSAASA is the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. I always describe it as graduate school for service nerds. It is going to be in Florida this year, in person November 19-21. I want to note as well that it is being conducted in English and in Spanish. I want to encourage our Spanish speaking members especially, but anyone interested in service, to attend. I think it will be the first regional AA event that will be back in person. I am really excited about it and I encourage everybody to check it out. Thank you.

Greg K. (Registrar): I wanted to comment on the hybrid possibility. I love the spirit of it and anything that is inclusive and encourages more participation. I am curious if Susan was talking about just one Assembly because of pandemic concerns or more of a longer term thing? I would think at some point, it would go to the site investigation subcommittee. If not that subcommittee, if it is a longer term thing, shouldn't that get researched and go to a subcommittee?

Randy C (Alt. DCM-D11): I would like to speak to the ASL issue that was spoken about earlier. I personally have taken ASL and do sign ASL. I have sponsored two deaf individuals. One of them was also a member of NA and I was never questioned about going to a meeting with them either as their sponsor or as their interpreter. During the course of my education in ASL, there is a course you are required to take that directly addresses confidentiality. I guess what I am saying is no alcoholic should be denied entry into a meeting because the translator is not an alcoholic. The responsibility statement is one of the strongest points. Tradition 5, also, to carry the message.

Chip A. (Alt GSR Graham Group): I want to speak strongly in favor of at least investigating the details and necessary set up for this Fall's Assembly. A reason I am saying this, and I want to underline it, is that the jury is not completely at an agreed verdict with respect to the current pandemic. A pandemic can make a U turn. All we need are a couple of genetic changes in the virus, so I would like us to be ready so we don't have to cancel the Fall Assembly. I may be saying the glass is half empty, but I hope that we can make sure that we have our options open to have a Zoom type format for the Fall Assembly.

Rainer L. (Delegate): I am going to try to fit a couple of things in during my two minutes so I don't have to keep raising my hand. The Site Investigation subcommittee does not need a formal charge to take up for discussion or to move upon action, to bring forward a motion about future hybrid events. In terms of ASL, one of the things we have talked about at an Area level is prohibitive costs. I heard a really neat anecdote at Conference. There is a certification process that a person needs in order to be an ASL interpreter. In that certification process, they need to get a certain number of interpretation hours. In other Areas, they are turning to ASL schools, picking people at the end of their education, and essentially getting free training as a way to provide ASL interpretation for their events, which could be a really neat thing. Finally, we have a spiritual imperative to provide an equivalence of service for our Spanish communities, so we need a translator. This is not a failure on anyone's part in particular, but we need to get out there and find someone who is willing to dedicate a sufficient time in service to provide for this community of alcoholics. We have two wonderful, vibrant, and engaged districts which are being excluded from a large portion of our activities. This was very well evidenced in the fact that our Spanish speaking DCMs were not able to participate in our Mock Conference process because of the lack of availability of background, though that is not an Area function, that is 1500 pages in a Conference process. But we are doing the same thing on an Area level. We need a Translator. Please talk locally and find someone who is willing to invest some time to provide this service. Thank you.

Jon T. (CPC Coordinator): Regarding Zoom, or the new normal, or any digital platform in the new normal. Regardless of Lake Junaluska and the expenses of hybrid, the Area has a Zoom account. I am just putting forward the suggestion, that whatever it costs, and I don't know what it costs, I know I can get a professional account for a year for \$100. My question to the Area is, without this coming up before Budget and Finance, and it may have to, is how much is it worth to be able to have these ongoing Zoom meetings for workshops, not just for CPC but for other committees. Even what we did today...that is the first Concepts workshop I have been to. One of the issues I think is that GSRs, if they wanted to become involved in CPC or something else, many were paid to be here by their home groups. Some of them may have a lot of expense because of travel. I don't know of any CPCs were ever paid by their home groups to come, or by their districts to come. Now there is an opportunity to contribute to their ongoing education to help in their 12<sup>th</sup> step work. I am just putting that forward for consideration for the future. After this pandemic ends and moving forward, how much is that ongoing education and help to the fellowship worth? Thanks.

Susan B. (GSR-Just the Basics): First I want to thank Greg for reading my mind, and realizing the things I was thinking but not saying. The unspoken intent was that the hybrid option go beyond just the upcoming Assembly, but that we investigate how we can use video conferencing technology going forward to support a variety of Area 51 activities. It could be Assemblies, Committee meetings, workshops, any Area 51 activity, was the unspoken intent behind that.

Mary W. (GSR-Came to Believe): I have a friend who is a professional interpreter. While we were talking about this, I texted him and he said the Raleigh Region Center is a resource for us for interpreters. Currently they have funds to help pay for interpreting if that is an issue. They do have an Asheville center if we wanted to have interpreting. I think if we have interpreting, it should be someone that is qualified and certified. Thank you.

Julie R. (Alt Delegate): I just wanted to answer the question that Catherine asked before about penalties. I pulled up the contract for our Lake Junaluska event, and the legalese that is in here says "if groups actual usage is less than 80% of the Room Night Commitment, then group agrees to pay as liquidated damages and not as a penalty, the difference between 80% of the Room

Night Commitment and Group's actual usage, multiplied by the average group room rate, plus applicable taxes." So 80% of the room contract is 204 nights. If I read that correctly, and I am no lawyer, we would just pay the difference which is a really generous policy compared to our other hotels. And also, my second thought, is having an AV option of doing the hybrid, because we would have to pay for that, is a great negotiating tool for the Site Investigation subcommittee to have and could possibly lower our room rates.

Viviana S. (DCM-D92): Since last night when the Translator situation came up, I have been thinking and thinking. This morning I spoke to a couple people to get a little bit of info. Denise, you are definitely going to get a phone call from me because I am thinking about it. I spoke to Rick and Greg this morning. I am scared to say this, but I am willing to try it. I am not certified. I have very good command of the English language and of course, I am Hispanic. Because it is translation from English to Spanish, I think I can do a pretty good job but I am definitely not certified. I'm just a hairdresser! What concerns me a little bit is the amount of work because after this Assembly, I cannot imagine the number of pages that will need to be translated. But I have the willingness to try, so let's see how that goes. Maybe I can be just a helper. I am willing to put myself out there if we don't have a better option. Thank you.

Pat B. (Literature): I am piggy backing on some thing Rainer said. In my tenure as Accessibilities coordinator, I pleaded with AA members who knew ASL to contact me and I got very little response. I chiefly used announcements and emails. The same thing with the Spanish Language Translator. We seem to have lost the ability to communicate one-on-one with each other. There seems to be a disconnect. It looks like our participation has dropped lately. We need to actually engage people, one-on-one if we are in a trusted servant position and we need something. Pick up the phone, talk to somebody, ask for their help. If I asked somebody "Hey, I need this", they are more likely to say "Yes, I can do it" or "I'll try", rather than blasting out Charlie Brown teacher announcements at meetings.

Selina (GSR-FFB): I have two comments. The first is about hybrid meetings. I think that would also fall under Accessibilities because that would also provide access to individuals who are homebound but yet they are doing service work. I am for that, definitely. And the second thing, I want to know if Randy will give us his information. Our district is looking for some people to become ASL interpreters and if he could put that in the chat somehow, I'd appreciate it! Thank you.

Roger A. (DCM-D11): I have been thinking a lot about how technology has aided us so much through the last year. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to learn a lot of things. One of the things I have learned is that D11 is not spending nearly as much money. We were spending \$1000/year to send me to Committee and Assemblies. We don't have to do that. I want the physical contact of everyone as much as all of you, but I am sitting on my back porch right now, attending an Assembly. We need to be looking to the future. We have this opportunity to make some changes. I want us to consider that and this is why I seconded the motion to have a hybrid Assembly this Fall. I want us to be thinking about how we are going to move into the future and how we have the opportunity to save a lot of money as we pass the hat around in our rooms. We don't have to spend all this money at Lake Junaluska, the Hilton, we don't have to do that. We can do it right here. Thanks.

Karen B. (Accessibilities): I am following up on what Selina said. I am looking at it as an accessibilities issue. This has been a great opportunity for people who are homebound, who are disabled. This young woman who is interested in doing this kind of service work, would like to serve as a GSR, this gives her an opportunity to come. This is the young lady who is quadriplegic. This allows her to come to Assemblies. I don't know if we have to make motions for the Committee meeting, but I think it needs to be considered for the long term.

David T. (GSR-Serenity Group): I'm new to this level of service, so forgive me if I step on toes. What I am hearing is fundamentally a much bigger problem than deciding if we can have a hybrid meeting as a one-time event. Many large corporations are going through the same decisions now. I don't like windshield time and I have to drive a couple hours to go to the meetings that I like to attend every week. I happen to be a fan of Zoom, but there are many people that I have met that think it is heresy to not go back to face-to-face meetings. I just throw that out. I am not stating an opinion, but there is a bigger issue. And back to the hybrid meeting, in our small group we had several proposals to go to hybrid because we have had many people from other states join us and we felt a great connection to those people. For us, it was going to be very expensive. It was not only the cost of something like an Owl camera, but also the new service positions. And it is a double-edged sword. There is more service but it takes more people to serve a hybrid meeting. My proposal would be to explore if we need face-to-face meetings, or do we not. I am not coming down on either side of that, but I know it is on many people's minds. Thank you.

Ken D. (DCM-D45): How much sobriety is required for the Translator position?

Denise M: Can someone please look that up in the P3 manual?

Keith M. (Archivist): I just wanted to make the comment that we are currently investigating having an Area 51 Technology committee which would include a Zoom Ops team. We currently have a Zoom Ops team consisting of a bunch of volunteers, but the website subcommittee is looking at having a Technology Committee for Area 51 which would include providing for Zoom going forward. So I just wanted to mention that in case it got missed in the Website subcommittee report today. We are already looking into a Technology committee that would cover a lot of the Zoom questions that have come up. Thank you.

Gale P. (DCM-D93): If we do go hybrid or any kind of virtual, I would like us to consider a format change that accommodates that because it has been very hard for me to get people in my district into a workshop on a Saturday night when you are sitting at home. It's one thing if you are sitting in the hotel and have nothing else to do and I think our whole schedule is geared towards that. We try to keep that in person feel in these virtual meetings. But we missed an opportunity to make it more convenient for people to attend by shifting things to times that wouldn't interfere with normal distractions they would have when they are at home anyway. I would like us to consider that if we do use a virtual or hybrid format. Thanks.

Denise M: Randy's information has been posted in the chat for those that were asking for that. Someone has looked up in the P3 the sobriety requirements for Translator and there is no sobriety requirement, but they must be an AA member.

Catherine W. (DCM-D18): I am not opposed to the hybrid idea, but one thing I am concerned about is attendance. Can someone here say what our average attendance was at an in-person Assembly? My screen shows there are 140 participants here and it seems to me when we have had in-person Assemblies that it's been more like 300 people. The first time I went to an Assembly and saw all those people there, I thought "My gosh, what a commitment to AA! These people are giving up their weekend to make sure that AA stays alive." I am really happy we have Zoom and I go to a lot of Zoom meetings, but I don't think that's universal. In my own experience in my own district, the number of GSRs that have attended my Zoom District meetings has steadily declined. I just wanted to throw that out.

Marty M. (PI): To piggyback on what Roger was saying, I remember my first Assembly meeting, which was the year we did the inventory. The only other thing I remember about that, because I was about 6 months sober, there was one guy there who spoke very passionately about wanting his online group to have a voice and a vote at our Assembly. It was shut down, mainly because there was no way for them to register as a group with GSO. That was one of the concerns, there were others. That was about seven years ago. Just this year, GSO has decided they need to provide a way for them to become a 'real group' and participate in the service structure. The other thing I remember that guy saying is that these groups have been around ever since online has been possible, so maybe since the mid 90's or sooner. AA moves very slowly, but we need to be looking at this. This is probably going to be part of a bigger discussion for future Committees and Assemblies. I think it is important that we continue to look at this.

Lindsey S. (DCM-D43): Site Investigation subcommittee members, look for an email from me! We may be meeting a few more times before Summer Committee. One thing I wanted to bring up, because I do like the idea of that moving forward, it is something we will need to consider as we are looking at the bids for 2023 – 2025. I just looked at the Hilton Raleigh North because we have all been there a million times. We get those meeting rooms complimentary because we fill 80% of our room block. If we fill below 55% on this bid, we will pay \$10,000 for those meeting rooms. On top of that, we are also going to be paying for more AV or bringing in our own AV. So as much as a hybrid does sound fabulous, it would probably change the scope of a lot of these bids, trying to figure out what our room block would have to be and additional AV costs. It could change the scope of the bids we are already looking at. I also wanted to address the concerns some people had about two years earlier and thinking maybe one year would help. It would in a sense, but keep in mind that we need to bring it to either Summer or Winter Committee in order to come before the Fall or Spring Assembly and we need to allow time for the Chair to negotiate that contract. If that contract were to fall through, we would have to be able to put something else together. We wouldn't want to be three months out from an Assembly with nowhere to go. So two years was about as slim as we thought we could get it, but we did consider less time than that. Thanks.

Steve R. (DCM-D70): First of all, we would love to have you at Lake Junaluska, but we realize that might not be possible for everyone and we might end up going a different route. I am glad we are talking about hybrid and not just virtual. The one thing I miss is the building of relationships, not just in AA but also in business. You can disseminate information and you can have reports given, and all that, just as easily electronically. What you can't do is get to know someone between the meetings. And I'm not saying that it isn't reasonable for some people who might not want to do that. Going forward, I hope we keep in mind that though there are lots of advantages to virtual, there are also lots of advantages to in person. Thanks.

Wendy A. H. (Alt DCM-D21): I have a couple quick questions. The first is in regards to Lake Junaluska. I had the opportunity to attend SSAASA when it was held there, and I found myself in a situation where I was paying out of pocket a substantial amount since it is not an AA funded or group funded thing for me. I also found it difficult to find anywhere to get some decent food that didn't cost me \$20. I am neither for nor against the hybrid. I do enjoy the in-person Assemblies. I just want people to be aware, if you are a GSR and have to travel to Lake Junaluska and your district or group doesn't have a lot of money to send you there, it is something to consider. The second thing I wanted to address was ASL at the Area level. I have attended several different functions and sometimes I do have a hard time hearing even though I have good hearing. We have some people in our district who are hearing impaired. We do have the apparatus that people can use to enhance their hearing, but not everyone can use that. I would like to see something move forward about having an interpreter for ASL at our Area events just so we are able to carry the message to all alcoholics. Thanks.

George S. (DCM-D35): As I have been listening to the discussion about moving our Assembly and other events to virtual or hybrid, I understand the convenience, efficiency, and cost savings of it, but I was also thinking about how most of us have been at this Assembly today have experience with both in person and virtual so we have some context. I was also thinking about what environment we leave for those people in AA who replace us in the future. Specifically what I am talking about is the environment I have experienced over the years at the Assemblies. My first Assembly was in 2002, my first as a GSR I believe was in 2004, and I have been to a number of them over the years. There are people that I still know from those experiences. There are

people I have met over the years, having lunch with somebody, having dinner with somebody at the hotel, seeing familiar faces the next year. I just want us to think about what we are leaving, will it be an environment that is devoid of that experience if we turn to more and more technology and more and more virtual meetings. Convenient or not, cost-effective or not, what is the real cost as far as the fellowship. I just wanted to ask those questions rhetorically. Thank you.\

Annette K. (GSR-Big Town Group): I wanted to talk about virtual too. I know several people at the Assembly from years of coming there as a GSR and DCM. I would not know these people had I not gone in person, and I don't get to speak to them now because we are doing this online. It is the only time I would see a lot of people, when we would come to the Assemblies and Committee meetings. I understand some of the fears and the convenience of having it virtual or hybrid. As we go into the future, I don't think it should be an ongoing thing. That's just my own opinion, I understand. I miss seeing the people and being able to have lunch with them and talk with them one-on-one which I can't do right now. Having those relationships and meeting new people is important. There was one other thing I wanted to say, but it has left my brain. So thank you.

Emily M. (GSR-St. Ambrose Group): With virtual meetings, they are great, but we lose quite a few folks from lack of connectivity. So, I just want to make sure we are inclusive and not excluding anyone with those difficulties. It's not the same everywhere. The other thing my homegroup mentioned was, moving forward, should there be another pandemic, I hope we are prepared for that.

Elizabeth P. (Convention Chair): I was really hoping when we had to go to Zoom, that we would have a lot more participation at the Assemblies. I believe it has been less than what we have had at in person meetings. That aside, I was able to go to the SC Assembly, which is held at a retreat center. They said it was one of the best things that ever happened to them, having to go to a retreat center. People sat at tables together when they ate, and they made those connections. They became a much closer Area because they were able to spend time outside the meetings. I know for myself personally, my AA world, when I started going to Assemblies, when from Raleigh to the entire state. I love the people I have met from all over the state. I wouldn't have that if I had been on Zoom Assemblies the whole time.

Pat M. (GSR-Happy Destiny Group): I have comment to share about Zoom Assemblies. This is my third Zoom Assembly and I have been to one in person. I can attest to the fact that there is no substitute for the in person. But, the one thing that I feel needs reminding is that this is not our 'forever'. This is a temporary solution, which has been a magnificent solution given the circumstances. But I don't think that anyone is suggesting that this go on forever. It seems once we reach that point that the pandemic is no longer an issue, it seems we could and should go back to what we would call 'normal'. I will also say, that given the circumstances of the pandemic, the online meetings have absolutely saved my hide. If it weren't for the technology, I probably wouldn't be in such a good place. But again, I agree it is no substitute for the in person. I don't know that I could have gotten sober doing this virtually. It sounds like people think this is going to be the long term solution to meeting in person, and I just don't see that.

Ken M. (DCM-45): I have noticed that most of us are over the age of 30. I think we are shooting ourselves in the foot unless we can get to only about 50% of us over 30. What are we doing to increase the number of younger people into the program? Just an insight. The younger people are the future of AA. 20 to 30 years from now, some of us are going to be gone. What will AA be then if we don't recruit younger people and raise them up in leadership.

Scott H. (DCM-D50): The reality is that COVID-19 is just the beginning. The CDC has produced numerous reports that we are going to see more of these global type events with globalization and the way the world is going. At the beginning of the pandemic there seemed to be a sentimentality in the fellowship that if it's an online meeting, then it's not a real meeting. Or if it's an online group, they are not 'real AA'. We need to be careful with that. I think we need to bear in mind what this technology has been able to do for us this past year and not go completely in the opposite direction, that everything has to be in person. We need to find a happy medium and keep this technology at our disposal. We all hope and pray that we don't experience another pandemic like this, but it could be a reality in the future that we will have to get out face masks and get vaccines and stuff like that.

Barbara B. (GSR-Wild Bunch): As a senior coming into AA, I read a lot about demographics and there is going to be a big split in this country between very young and very old. Including younger people is going to be important, but for a while, there is going to be more of a gap. With technology, there are people who want to use it, who don't want to use it, people who can use it. Everyone is aware that we have extremes. As far as COVID-19 goes, we are going to have a 'normal', but I doubt we ever go back to the way it was, based on a lot of reading and research. Any way that I can participate in AA, I am happy to do it.

Mariah B. (Zoom Ops): With the pandemic, a lot of us got to experience what people who live with disabilities have to experience every day. Over the past year, I've gotten to connect with a lot of people that are disabled or have other things going on. By saying this is a pandemic solution, erases those people in our recovery communities, where Zoom is their only option. These things get monetized. I think it is important to remember that, no matter what, in AA we get to choose whether or not we will reach these people and give them the accessibility they deserve. Having a wider view on that is really important and not base it on the 'able-bodied' world's needs.

Scott S. (GSR-Primary Purpose): It's really easy for me to share your opinion because it matches my experience, or to say 'You are wrong'. I want to put in a word or two for "Yes, and...". Yes, meeting face to face is a great way to establish relationships, and yet my group was a meeting when this all started and we bound together over the course of the pandemic and meeting online. So we had elections yesterday and we are now a homegroup. So, 'yes, and...'. Yes, the one is true, but the other can

also be true as well. I walk with braces and a fair amount of pain. I want to say how much easier this has been for me! The radical idea that disability isn't inherent in the people who are disabled, but in the design of the situations out in society. There was a conference on the third floor of a building that didn't have an operating elevator that I couldn't go to. Was that my disability or was that their disability? Things are unconsciously designed in a way to filter other people out because they are not able to participate. I am all for in person, but I also want to speak up for "Yes, and...". One may be true, the other may be true, and how can we make it true for all of us?

Rainer L. (Delegate): I had an hour to give a report at the Winter Committee meeting and the thing I tried to focus on was giving away general service. This is not hybrid. This is not in person. This is a matter of attention and focus. This morning we had a workshop on the Concepts where we talked about Bill's essay, Leadership in AA, ever a vital need. This is something we grow. We grow it through our connections with one another. We do it through personal invitation and reaching out. It's the basic AA formula. When I showed up to an Assembly, one of our past delegates Jim K. and his wife asked me to sit down and have breakfast with them. About eight years ago I was having lunch with Katy and we had the opportunity to invite someone to sit down and have lunch with us. One of my big service opportunities was when Deborah gave me general service by inviting me to participate in coding Grapevine surveys. So involve yourselves with each other. Ask people to do things. These things can happen virtually. We know they can happen in person. But they don't happen without intention and effort. Every time I see George, I think about our first meeting in Clemmons. He came up to me and asked me a question. He made an impression, because during the break I found him and remembered his name. And I had an answer. Being mindful of one another, creating some connections. Maybe if we are doing something virtual, we need to set up some kind of coffee break time in break out rooms so we can foster some relationships. We are coming up on 60 participants, down from where we were at the beginning. There is a different reality in attendance at our virtual events, but it's all pros and cons. It's not what it is, it's what you are going to make of it. I hope you feel charged to reach out and do this thing together. That's how it works, by giving it away.

Denise thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting with the responsibility statement.

### Contributions by District to Area 51

As of March 31, 2021

District	DISTRICT TOTALS *		CONTRIBUTIONS TO AREA 51			
	Groups	Members	Contributions	Groups	Members	% Total Groups
1	17	289	593.00	2	52	11.76
2	17	252	943.00	5	89	29.41
3	46	853	1,416.26	6	172	13.04
4	31	634	448.85	6	73	19.35
5	9	58	5.00	1	3	11.11
11	17	342	414.00	4	149	23.53
12	43	505	445.70	6	124	13.95
13	22	338	0.00	0	0	0.00
14	8	95	50.00	1	25	12.50
15	5	58	0.00	0	0	0.00
16	2	8	0.00	0	0	0.00
17	8	112	0.00	0	0	0.00
18	29	460	185.60	2	16	6.90
19	22	299	60.00	1	12	4.55
21	28	383	50.00	1	34	3.57
22	9	103	0.00	0	0	0.00
23	56	986	35.99	2	28	3.57
24	30	517	900.00	1	86	3.33
30	15	146	155.00	0	0	0.00
31	47	812	913.58	6	130	12.77
32	38	762	779.71	6	161	15.79
33	39	909	2,205.84	2	50	5.13
34	36	704	343.00	6	101	16.67
35	40	793	385.45	7	195	17.50
41	41	1,072	491.25	3	235	7.32
42	29	617	580.00	2	45	6.90
43	54	1,744	78.10	3	160	5.56
44	18	434	658.70	2	72	11.11
45	32	441	619.23	2	27	6.25
50	30	395	329.86	4	69	13.33
51	28	708	384.30	2	300	7.14
52	25	416	400.00	1	60	4.00
60	29	637	1,279.62	5	117	17.24
70	64	1,034	845.11	5	129	7.81
71	25	471	116.96	2	45	8.00
80	30	285	232.78	2	40	6.67
91	24	274	690.00	3	49	12.50
92	18	250	160.00	1	40	5.56
93	19	294	196.30	2	32	10.53
Other			250.00			
Total *	1,080	18,387	\$17,642.19	96	2,759	8.89

Avg groups per District:

31

Avg members per Group:

17

Avg contribution per member

(contributing groups only):

6.39

## AREA 51 - NCGSC

### 2021 1st Qtr. Financial Report (Jan 1 - Mar 31)

#### GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 1/1/21

\$27,461

##### Receipts:

Contributions (Grp., Dist., Inter., Other)	\$	22,744
Literature Sales	\$	467
Coffee Contributions	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	3
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>23,214</b>

##### Expenditures:

Assembly/Meetings	\$	218
Communications	\$	2,533
Literature Purchases/Sales Tax	\$	320
Archives Rent/Insurance	\$	1,995
Miscellaneous	\$	206
TRANSITION	\$	500
Officer and Coordinator Expenses	\$	5,670
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,442</b>
		<u>\$ 11,772</u>

#### GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 3/31/21

\$ 39,233

#### MONEY MARKET SAVINGS ACCOUNT

PRUDENT RESERVE (GENERAL FUND)	\$	54,923
PRUDENT RESERVE (NC CONVENTION)	\$	13,566
ARCHIVES SURPLUS FUND	\$	386
PRUDENT RESERVE (CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE)	\$	2,334
PROPERTY & ACQUISITION FUND	\$	3,208
SURPLUS	\$	6,249
INTEREST	\$	-

#### MONEY MARKET TOTAL 3/31/21

\$ 80,666

#### CORRECTIONS CHECKING BALANCE 3/31/21

\$ 1,909

#### TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS

\$ 121,808

### **Area 51 Registrar Report for 2021 Spring Assembly**

I am Greg K. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you and your groups for your participation in Area 51. It is my pleasure to serve you as Registrar. A.A. allows us the opportunity to be stretched in directions that we may have not been exposed to otherwise. I really did not start using a computer until after I got sober. I certainly would not have ever predicted that I would have a service position anything like this one. It's interesting how when we wake up a little spiritually, we start to feel and take responsibility for the fellowship that gave us lives.

From January 1st to May 13th of this year, I have made a combined total of 371 updates in our area database and a similar amount in the Fellowship Connection (FC) database. We currently have 1,089 regular groups with 19,562 members and 52 correctional facility groups with 1,272 members. The only update I made to correctional facility groups was switching the Riverside Group that met inside the walls of Craggy Correctional Institution to inactive. I am fairly certain there are more updates that need to be made so please get me the appropriate forms either by email or snail mail and I will enter information soon after I receive it. It is really helpful if you fill out the forms COMPLETELY, especially for the FC database. The G.S.O. records department has asked to please not send fake emails. There are at least 2 or 3 reasons for this. One is if it is a wrong email then it's possible that someone's private information could go outside the fellowship. It also prevents a communication breakdown in our service structure and it saves both time and money from having to unnecessarily use postal mail. Communication is very important in our service structure and we are only as good as the information we gather.

There has been some confusion as to what is a group number. If a group has been around for a little while then there is a 6 digit number that is known as the "Legacy Number" or "FNV number." FNV stands for Fellowship New Vision which is an old database that was just kind of isolated. Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) is an important fundamental idea in business today. It is the same for A.A. The newest G.S.O. database is called Fellowship Connection (FC) and it is integrated. It allows us to keep track of all communications with G.S.O. like contributions, literature purchases, group G.S.R., etc. There is a newer 9 digit number for all registered groups and that is the group number, also called NetSuite ID, for FC. Right now, you can use either number but you are encouraged to get comfortable with this new 9 digit number for all communications as the older 6 digit number will be phased out.

I have participated in both training and sharing sessions with other Registrars and GSO staff members about Fellowship Connection. It has been really helpful in identifying ways that FC can be improved and also it is helpful in letting me know I am not alone in some of the challenges I have had. Overall, FC has been really great and my understanding is that it is a big improvement from previous databases.

The Area 51 information in our area database and the FC database do not match at this time. There are some groups in one and not the other and vice versa. The number of districts is not even matching now. I have goals to get these databases much more closely lined up and to get the group numbers (9 digits) in our database. My original plan was to update our area database first and then Fellowship Connection. We have realized that switching the group numbers in our database has caused our Treasurer some challenges so now the plan is to work on FC first and then get corrections made in our area database.

Every group needs a mail contact to be a registered group. Position emails are not to be used for Fellowship Connection. Rainer will inform you about what happened at Conference about virtual groups. For now, please send me this information and I will send to the Records Department at GSO. This transition for virtual groups will take time.

Our Delegate and all DCM's now have "read only" access in Fellowship Connection (also in French & Spanish). They can see what I see but cannot make any updates. DCM's should have received a letter from GSO about this and they should have been sent a password.

I have had inquiries about GSR and DCM kits. Once an update is made, the kit should be sent in 7-15 days. New groups will wait 30 days (per advisory action) to be sent a Group Handbook. There was a flaw in the system at GSO where they thought kits were being mailed and they were not. Staff at GSO is working hard to track and mail missing kits. You are entitled to a hard copy of the kit for your service position. You can request electronic kits (such as GSR & DCM). I will be happy to send to any of you. All of the information is also available on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). This will save money which translates to the spiritual significance of a dollar where more funds can be used to help the still suffering alcoholic who has not found our fellowship. You will be formally able to opt-in for this at a later date. A couple of area committee members have asked about the directory. G.S.O. is still printing a small amount now and they only provide by request. It is slowly winding down.

PLEASE contact me if I can be useful to you or your groups and districts. I really appreciate the opportunity to have a small role to uphold the policies, procedures and principles that are already in place that hopefully ensures everyone's voice will be heard. I want to thank Clayborne T. and Donna B. for their help and thank you all for allowing me to serve!

With Gratitude in Service,  
Greg K.

Area 51 Registrar

### **Delegate's Report**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Area 51 Spring Assembly. My name is Rainer LeFebvre, and I'm your alcoholic Delegate. To those of you who are new to your positions, welcome. Our Big Book talks about seeing a fellowship grow up about us, about having a host of new friends. It talks about these things as experiences not to be missed. These things are to be found as much

in General Service as they are in our Home Groups. Walking hand in hand on a path of spiritual progress is not simply a beautiful expression of sponsorship, it is also the essence of the connection we have with each other. There is a connectedness that exists between servants as we commence shoulder to shoulder our common journey. But the fruits of this experience depend upon you, upon your engagement and involvement with those about you. There is an opportunity here for a lifetime bond between us as servants. This will be a spiritual experience for you, if you avail yourselves of the people around you.

I want to start with a bit of an explanation. We serve with delegated authority from our groups, our districts, and our Area. And while we carry those voices with us, our service is on behalf of AA as a whole and the future member who may need us. We serve with a Right of Decision, to use our judgment based upon a full discussion, acting on the trust which we have received. With that comes the responsibility for reporting, clear communication, and a thorough transparency.

Condensing the 49 Advisory Actions and 89 Committee Considerations which came from the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference into an hour's report is a ... challenging task. Trying to convey the spirit of the Conference and the feelings which came with the 74 hours of Zoom meetings with an hour's report seems a little easier. I'm going to cover a bit of both, but I am also going to be posting information onto the [aanorthcarolina.org](http://aanorthcarolina.org) website. I feel that it's important to provide a full account of the Conference actions, but I cannot let go of the opportunity to speak about the Conference experience. So please check the website for additional information. Always feel free to reach out directly with questions or for additional information. And remember that I like invitations. If you want a local report, just let me know.

Let me just say that the Conference was a fantastic experience. It was a Conference filled with a bold trust and a willingness to act on behalf of AA's future, attached to the preservation of our Three Legacies and our history, but also willing to reimagine and reinvent some of our tools. There were a few bumpy moments within the virtual experience, a few occasions of alcoholic ego on display. But these only served to ground me with an understanding that the Conference is still Alcoholics Anonymous, that we are still members with defects and opportunities for further spiritual growth. The imperfections made it easier for me to feel a sense of belonging. The scale was different, and the stage was different. But really wasn't markedly different from an Area 51 Assembly.

I am tremendously grateful for the upbringing I received in Area 51. I was introduced to things here which allowed for me to be fully useful as a Conference Member. You have given me the experiences which would allow me to function, tolerance as I learned to function, and encouragement I began to function. Leading up to Conference, I kept wondering what kind of Delegate I would be. I decided to be an unafraid Delegate. I would not let my self-doubt and hangover self-image prevent me from full participation. I placed my faith in the preparations that I received in the services you have allowed me to perform, and the confidence that God would provide what I needed if I kept close to Him and performed His work well. One of the things which I have been watching with fascination is the way in which concerns tend to cluster. We talked about this during Pre-Conferences as an element within a call to action. There were several items on this year's Agenda which addressed similar issues across very different contexts. These came from a wide array of places, and impact the breadth and width of our interactions. One of these clusters formed around the methods of our communication and the means of our participation.

For several years certainly, many more potentially, there was been a degree of push and pushback between different delegations of authority. Area Delegates have wanted a greater stake and role within the Conference process, agenda selection, etc. This has led to wonderful compromise, such as the Conference Committee Chairs being invited to the January Board weekends, and each Conference Committee meeting with the Chair of the corresponding Trustees Committee to discuss proposed agenda items. These have been very successful, and are examples of the direct communication and process development which I believe are essential to the future harmony of the Conference.

I think Newton was the first Delegate that I remember talking about the "process," and I've heard a lot of Delegates since talk about trusting this "process." But somehow I largely missed understanding that this process was the Committee Process. There were 110 items on the Conference Agenda, and these are placed before the 13 Conference Committees. The first three and a half days of the Conference were a mixture of presentations, workshops, sharing sessions, and Committee sessions. Each Committee held thorough and exhaustive discussion on their respective agenda items, and developed recommendations or considerations to address them. For some items, the Committees voted to take no action, for others there were recommendations for action. The entire Conference then discussion the recommendations and decides whether or not to take action. There are also considerations which are generally requests for future exploration, research, or discussion by the Trustees. Considerations do not lead to immediate discussion or action, but they are powerful statements of the group conscience of each Committee, and highlight needs to further information.

This is the process that we are asked to trust, and it was unbelievable. I served on the Trustees Committee. Upon receiving this assignment, I was a little disappointed initially. I wanted a Committee I understood, I wanted Corrections or Policy & Admissions. I didn't even really understand what the Trustees' Committee was responsible for. That changed immediately when I saw our Agenda, and realized that we would be the Committee discussion the statement of concern and motion to censure the Board. I thought that I had a temperament which would provide me with something useful to offer, in helping the Committee and Conference come to a positive resolution.

"So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making." There have been 3 motions to censure the Board in the 71 year history of the General Service Conference. These occurred in 1995, 2018, and 2021. There are several common threads between these, particularly those most recent. Of course, fear is an evil and corroding thread, and with it come concerns about transparency, authority, and involvement.

14 Delegates to the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC signed a statement of concern and moved to censure the Board. This letter was not provided in its entirety to the 71<sup>st</sup> Conference, on the advice of legal counsel. In response, one of the statement's authors sent it directly to each Area Delegate. This all underpins the lack of transparency and distrust expressed in the letter. Some of the concerns raised were about the misuse of authority. But most of the concerns were about a lack of transparency. And all concerns were uncensored by failed communication. We reviewed each of the concerns, and the 117 pages of background evidencing where information was communicated. We heard Delegates saying that their questions had not been fully answered, and Board members saying that they felt they had provided those answers. We saw where information was presented in Final Reports, Board Reports, and meeting minutes, and decided that the quantity of communication was preventing clear communication. Rather than recommending censure, we made a recommendation to establish quarterly meetings for Conference members to be able to ask clarifying questions. This was voted down but did receive a simple majority which marks it for further consideration. We also made a Committee Consideration to explore creating a thread-based forum for communication, believing this would offer benefits to transparency and clarity.

The Conference did approve the Process for the Equitable Distribution of Workload. This will be implemented as a 3-year trial. Of course, this will offer some balance between Committee agendas, where current years have seen Committees with an excess of 30 items, while others have 5 or 6 item agendas. But it also changes the timeline for the entire Conference process. There will be a new Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for the submission of agenda items, which means that any item coming from our Area will need approval at the Spring Assembly in order to be considered at the following General Service Conference. This will not affect the timeline for releasing background, which will still be mid-February. But the additional time will offer benefits to simultaneous release of translated background, and additional review for clear and concise background. I think this will see us moving away from 1500 pages of material, and hopefully back towards a clearly presented 7 or 800 pages.

I'm going to talk about some new tools which are on the way. We approved the policy on conversion of written Conference-approved materials into video format. Priority will be given to basic items addressing the broader aspects of A.A. A prioritized list of possible print to video projects will be presented to the Conference for project selection. So there will be a mechanism for Fellowship involvement in the selection of materials.

We approved two new video PSAs "Party" and "Walls," with minor post-production edits. We watched both PSAs and I found each to be gripping and relatable. There was some discussion about having these available as shorter cuts as well, to suit 15 and 30 second slots which might be required with the limitations on available PSA slots. Party shows a lady attending a Zoom Party, how her drinking becomes a spectacle and a concern through the course of the evening, and eventually to her arrival at a virtual meeting. Walls features several actors each with a brief description accompanying very moving images about how their drinking walled them away, isolating them from the world, before they found Alcoholics Anonymous and brought the walls down. Both story boards equated nicely to our model of what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. These PSAs will be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated for usage and effectiveness with a report back to the 2022 Conference. There will also be a feasibility study about paid placement of PSA videos on streaming services with a report coming to next year's Conference.

One of this year's Pre-Conference heroes was a lady named Jamie from Charlotte. District 43 I believe. I would guess that she attended 9 of the 15 Pre-Conferences and her thing was AA Podcasts. We did approve the production of AA podcasts to provide sharing within the Fellowship and for sharing information about AA to the public. These will be distributed by GSO in cooperation with the Grapevine Office. A report on development and implementation will be forwarded to the 2022 Conference. It was also noted that the General Service Office has standing approval for the development of service material, so we should expect to see some service slant to the podcasts, whether as Forum highlights, or Box 4-5-9 reviews. The exact cadence and release schedule hasn't been determined. But we will have official AA podcasts.

There will be a draft of a pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals delivered to next year's Conference for approval. Everything featured robust discussion, and this was no exception. There does seem to be some concern about developing material for specific groups of people, but there is also an acknowledgement about the improved utilization that we see by directing pamphlets towards specific professions. According to the last membership survey, 13% of AA members were referred by mental health professionals. Because of the nature of the profession, we should see digital development as well as printed material. This has been repeatedly requested by professionals and by our membership. Most of the material which this pamphlet will address is already available in other CPC literature. But by gathering it together in a pamphlet address to Mental Health Professionals, we believe we will get more traction, readers, and thus better referrals.

The AA Grapevine Board will be implementing an Instagram account, reporting back about account activity to the 2022 Conference. This is an important tool to reach out to the 18-32 demographic, and will help place us where our potential members are located. There are 1.2 billion Instagram accounts, with 500 million using Instagram at least once a day. Instagram is a picture-based platform which could be a really neat way to attract a growing interest in the Grapevine. It's a place where we can plant a seed, more than carrying a message. One of the comments in discussion which I really appreciated was that "attraction rather than promotion is always a good discussion, but we can't leave discovery out in the cold." My sponsor always said that we don't want to be so anonymous that a person in need can't find us. This page will allow us to have a presence in a place that many potential alcoholics visit daily, and gives us a great potential to make an impression on someone early in their drinking. And as a real headline, we did approve the development of a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, maintaining the 1995 Advisory Action that the first 164 pages, the Preface, Forewords, Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices remain as they currently are. There was wonderful conversation. This was supported by 75% of the Conference, with a very vocal minority

speaking to the fact that this motion is insular and aims for our current membership rather than our future membership. I'm going to share some of those statements because I hope they will resonate and continue in further local sharing about the efficacy of our literature.

We have a relatively flat membership, despite growing national and global alcoholic populations. The populations we are wanting to reach aren't touched by our material, considering it out of date and irrelevant.

We treat the Big Book as a sacred thing because of its life saving message. But even sacred books get updated and translated in a fashion which allows for their continued use.

Withholding changes to the first 164 pages sends the wrong message about who we are. We are producing a 5<sup>th</sup> edition that a large section of our membership will not use. Unless we make wider updates, we will never get enough new people coming in to justify having updated stories. We need to give new people an opportunity to find our message and current language is a prohibitive barrier.

There was a motion to reconsider, which failed for lack of a simple majority. 40% of the Conference supported reconsideration. At the conclusion of this discussion and vote, we proceeded to the next Agenda item and approved the inclusion of a new foreword, an updated preface, and updates to expand on the existing ideas in Appendices III and V. There was not the same vibrant discussion and no mention of how this action superseded the 1995 Advisory Action. So, we are getting a Fifth Edition. And while the new Edition may not may not go as far as some of us wanted, there is an alternative forthcoming.

The Literature Committee recommended and the Conference approved the translation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous into plain and simple language, to be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible. A progress report or draft will be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee. There has been a long-standing editorial policy to revise our literature for gender equity, neutral pronoun usage, and religious language. But this policy stopped at the door of Bill's writings. This is a supplemental resource; it is not replacing the Big Book. This is how we achieve the other aspects of change, having a modern, relatable and accessible text while preserving the original text.

I don't have North Carolina statistics. But Debi K. the Delegate from Area 16 say that Georgia's prison population reads at almost a 7<sup>th</sup> grade level, that approximately 40% are learning disabled, and that a large portion has a reading disability. So, as she said, we need something, they need something, so let's do something. Of course, there were people adamantly opposed, because the Big Book was good enough for us, good enough through history, and thus surely good enough for you. There are people who say that translation is what a Sponsor is for. I was one of those; I am one of those. But the wonderful thing about listening to the experiences of others, and of maintaining an open mind during that process, is that our opinions can change. What about people who don't have access to a sponsor? What about the population in Quebec, where 50% of the population is said to be functionally illiterate?

The Pre-Conference events were especially beneficial in helping me consider challenges and barriers that some members have encountered, things which I had the privilege of not needing to contend with. While this is a translation into plain language to lower the literacy level required to access the book, I hope you can see it as something more. It is also an opportunity to be bold, to move forward without amending or erasing the past. To have a message unrestrained by the erudition of Scylla and Charybdis or by the historical facts of Napoleon's exile. Expect to have our simple spiritual message of depth and weight, free of prohibitive barriers like lexile and gender terminology.

And please continue to have local sharing about accessibility and relatability in our literature. There was a lot of talk about workbooks and other resources, things which currently exist outside of our Conference approved literature. Whether they are Hazelton, productions from for-profit treatment centers, or individually authored, there are a lot of outside resources. I don't think development will stop with the Plain Language Big Book. I hope that you will hold local sharing sessions to become better informed about the barriers and opportunities in our literature, and to discuss what new material you would like to see. And try to find some time to talk about fear. I hear fear every time we talk about change in literature. Some are afraid that we will make our message so simple that people will no longer reach out for help. Some worry that there will be a fault line between the membership based upon the book they use.

Our Big Book is the treasure map, but it's not the treasure. We are all attached to the experiences and literature which made AA's solution available to us. But we need to move past sentimentality based upon personal experience and deal with this on the basis of principle. Some day we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at their destination. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Those are lessons from the Big Book, and if we believe those things, then let's be those things. This will be good for those who are here, for those who will be here, and for those who need to be here.

The motion to omit the line "Non-Alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" failed, which I found disappointing. There was a lot of meaningful sharing, one in particular from a morning meditation group based upon instructions from our Big Book. If circumstances warrant, we ask our wives or friends to join us in morning meditation. One of our Class A Trustees talked about the importance he had found in regular attendance at open meetings and the fact that our literature tells him that he does not have a voice there. There was a lot of anecdotal sharing about people showing up confused about whether they were or weren't, and how time and participation allowed them to identify and find our solution. So, this line will stay in "The AA Group" pamphlet, and of course, the autonomous decisions of a group conscience will continue to set home group policy.

Our motion to the Conference to create a 94<sup>th</sup> Area to encompass virtual groups was one of 6 motions received and forwarded addressing the participation of online-only groups. The Policy & Admissions Committee discussed those 6 motions, and made a recommendation that the US/Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This motion failed to reach two thirds by 2 votes after a long discussion. There was a lot of concern about setting policy for every district throughout the US and Canada, about the recommendation being sufficiently different from the issues discussed within delegate areas. As happened throughout the Conference, the minority opinion was powerful and saved us from a misstep.

The motion passed upon reconsideration. But things also started going off the rails a little bit. We had extended the business sessions on Thursday and Friday. We were now 4 hours passed the expected conclusion on the General Service Conference, and the cumulative toll of 132 parliamentarians was beginning to be evidenced. At one point in the span of about 15 minutes there was a motion to call the question, which was postponed rather than heard, two shares and then a poll from the Chair to see if people were ready to vote, a point of information and a point of order by someone who intended to make a motion to recommit, a point of order by the originator of the motion to call the question, a request that the chair recuse himself, a chair swap, another call the question, three more points of order, and then finally a vote. Which took us to the second motion about online-only group participation.

The Policy & Admissions Committee recommended that the General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the US/Canada General Service Structure. There was no discussion and the motion passed with 96% support. So, what we have is a measure for immediate involvement and inclusion, the opportunity to learn from experience, to make mistakes, and to provide information to a Committee to an improved method for the participation of online-only groups.

Floor Actions are an interesting Conference process. At the onset of any business session, any member has the opportunity to make a Floor Action. If this is seconded, these items are heard at the conclusion of Committee reports and recommendations. There were 6 Floor Actions this year. The Grapevine/La Vina Committee decided to take no action on possible changes to the AA Preamble, saying they needed more information to make a decision. There were two floor actions proposing changes. The first proposed a change which would read "In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others recover from alcoholism."

The discussion was split equally between the general need for change, and reflections upon removing "fellowship" from the Preamble. Some felt that this would make it harder for groups to adopt, others recalled its use in other literature. "Have you a sufficient substitute? Yes, it is that and vastly more. It is the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous." There were also statements about the religious connotation of Fellowship, and about the contradiction with changes for gender neutrality while using the word Fellowship. And some felt that this was an ideal way of removing all outside issues, providing a common ground for us all, while removing the stilted language of the proposed "Fellowship of people." This motion was approved with 75% support.

The next floor action was also for a Preamble revision, this time for a change to "Alcoholism Anonymous is a Fellowship of people..." Some delegates like this because it matched the language discussed within their Area, and because it is already in use in many groups. Some delegates simply wanted change, in any form, others supported this because it says what AA is, rather than what AA does. This floor action passed as well with 70% approval setting up a final showdown at 2am Sunday morning. An exception was made to allow a floor action to be made after Committee reports had concluded, and so it was moved that the Preamble revision described in the third floor action of the 71st GSC as the new revised A.A. Preamble be presented to the General Service Board for approval. Of course, both would be presented regardless of this action based upon their prior approval. People talked about the importance of unified action coming from the conference, and the difficulty of having dueling revisions. However, this motion was to put forward the less supported verbiage, and so it didn't seem like a sacrifice for unity, it seemed like an attachment to an agenda. But I supported the first wording, so I could be guilty of my own attachment.

And of course, it was 2am. This motion was said to pass by a vote of 85:43, which led to a slew of objections on account that this is not a two thirds majority. Explanation was made that votes are always rounded up, so 66.4% becomes 67%. Counter-arguments were made that this also means that votes are rounded down, with 33.6% becoming 33%. The decision remained to call it a pass based upon rounding. Then there was a change in Chair, and a new ruling that this was not substantial unanimity but rather 1 vote shy. Record was reviewed to confirm that there were no other instances of this during the Conference. And then the minority was given to the opportunity to speak. Eventually there was a motion to reconsider "because its late and I'm tired." The motion was reconsidered and passed, leaving both Preamble motions forwarded to the Board for approval, with the second motion forwarded twice.

The Twelve Traditions Illustrated pamphlet will continue to be printed and maintained. We discussed the 44,000 copies distributed last year, the fact that this pamphlet and the proposed revision addressed different audiences and different purposes, and the attachments voiced by many in the Fellowship. The Conference voted against retiring the current version. We did approve the draft of the revised pamphlet which will be "Experience has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated." This pamphlet is very different in the balance drawn between text and illustration, and provided less depth of information. I thought it was an effective introduction. It's quite different, but I think it is a worthwhile pamphlet, certainly considering that the original pamphlet will continue to be available.

There was an agenda item that the long form of each Tradition be added at the beginning of each essay in the 12 & 12. The Literature Committee recommended that the long form be added at the end of each essay, while the complete set be retained at the end of the book. This was a wonderful discussion, really each discussion was a wonderful thing. We talked about the merits of layouts, how the book, its layout, and table of contents were perceived, and how to make changes to facilitate a greater awareness of the long form of the Traditions. After discussing different layout options, voting this recommendation down, and then reconsidering the item, we discussed trusting the Committee process, and the importance of demystifying the Traditions by making this content visible and accessible. The motion did pass on reconsideration, and the long forms will be added at the end of each essay.

This is not the only change to the Twelve and Twelve. The committee recommended that the sentence which references “lustful enough to rape” in the Step 6 chapter be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of rape. There will be a footnote to provide context for the change. There was robust discussion, motions to amend, recommit, and reconsider before this motion passed. The element from the discussion which I appreciated most was the expressed desire to write new literature with new voices, rather than pinching away pieces of Bill’s voice from his writings. This idea of leaving the existing literature alone and making new material for the modern audience is something that I think deserves further examination.

We also approved the recommendation for a revision of page 117 to replace the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” with a footnote contextualizing the change. The passage had read that “nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. This mighty urge is the seat of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.” I saw something in this discussion, which happened a few other times at Conference. And it has happened here, so I think it’s worth bringing up for your consideration. We heard a powerful minority opinion, but it was a voice that was absent from the initial discussion prior to a vote. We have sharing on the minority opinion for a reason, but if you have a perspective on an issue that hasn’t been voiced, I want to offer my encouragement for you to share it. Don’t wait until the minority opinion to share your thoughts, Alcoholics Anonymous needs your participation.

There will be a Fourth Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous, with updated stories to better reflect current membership. A progress report on the new edition will be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. There have been a number of reported inaccuracies in the current translation, with statements of widespread need and desire for revision coming from the Spanish Community. There will also be the development of a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women, and I will forward information about the call for stories when it is available. I don’t know how many of us have had the opportunity to meet Maribel or Lupe, and I’m hoping that I’m correct. I think that Maribel is the first female DCM from one of our linguistic districts, and she and Lupe are a real powerhouse duo. If you haven’t had the opportunity to watch Maribel call a meeting into order, you’re missing out. Sorry, but I just had to shine a little light on them, they’re doing a fantastic job in service.

Winding down now, but I do want to run through a few of the notable “no actions” from the literature Committee, and to share a few items forwarded to the 72<sup>nd</sup> GSC. I believe there were 37 agenda items in from of this Committee, so it’s appreciable that a few got pushed forward to next year. Literature took no action on a call to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book for necessary revisions. They took no action on a proposed addendum to the foreword to the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, believing that would happen naturally and appropriately in the drafting process. They also took no action on adding a subtitle to the book Living Sober.

Progress reports on the Twelve Steps Illustrated and Twelve Concepts Illustrated will be reviewed at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference. Progress reports on the pamphlets Too Young and Young People in AA will also be brought to next year’s Conference. Further updates were requested to provide accessible language to safety topics in the pamphlet Q&A on Sponsorship. The pamphlet AA’s Three Legacies will be brought back with additional attention to length and the degree of quoted writings and historical context. A feasibility report will be provided next year about the prospect of developing a workbook to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Rather than shortchanging the fullness of discussion, revisions to The AA Group pamphlet, AA for the Native North American, Is AA for You, GSR: Your Group’s Link to AA as a Whole, and Q&A on Sponsorship were all returned to the Trustees’ Literature Committee with consideration that they be brought before next year’s Conference.

The Theme for this year’s Conference was “AA In A Time of Change.” I think with our actions at Conference, we brought this theme to bear on the issues before us. Isn’t change really what we are about? We can’t grow in understanding and effectiveness without reconsidering our ideas and approaches. We come into Alcoholics Anonymous, changing our ideas, our thought, habits, and lives. We lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change. We are guided by the spiritual principles of our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. But we are limited only by our imagination. If there is one thing which should characterize AA in a Time of Change, it should be a reimagination of the tools we are using to carry the message. We have an opportunity now, to imagine new and wonderful ways to reach out the hand of AA. And I hope we don’t lose our imagination as we return to the tried-and-true methods which made the difference for us. We are in a different world than we were in 2005, which was a different world that we had in 1995. I think our AA message shouldn’t change; we need to maintain our simple kit of spiritual tools.

But we need to continue to reimagine this complicated kit of technological tools. At some point, hopefully soon, we will get back to a semblance of normal. When that happens, we need to hold on to the costly lessons of the last year, or pain will not be a touchstone of spiritual progress. I went to my first Regional Forum in Myrtle Beach. I believe there was an attendance of about 230 members. I recently attended a virtual forum with over 2000 members. I don’t say that to advocate for continuing virtual gatherings, I’m selfish and I miss you all too much. I’m saying it in the hope that we find balance, and don’t neglect the lessons of the last year in a blind rush to return to the comfort of an old normal.

I like to end with some gratitude. At its end, the Big Book directs us to “see to it that your relationship with God is right, and great events will come to pass both in your life and the lives of countless others.” I took this as a charge, to rightly relate to God and those about me. So that I could have great events and a great life. But the fact is that I am one of those countless others, able to be here because others maintained our Program and grew our services. Thank you to all who came before, to the past servants who built our Area and exemplified service. We would not be who we are, where we are, or what we are without your dedication and sacrifice.

Thank you to all who are our present servants. You are a link in an incredible chain, caretakers of a great responsibility. This will be an experience unlike any other, if you open to it and involve yourself in it. And thank you to our future servants, a few most particularly. During the PreConferences I met some wonderful people, and I want to thank Tammy Z., a recent transplant from Area 67 Southeast Texas for her general participation and interest in everything. Sheila D. and several other ladies from Western North Carolina, who were wonderfully expressive and informative about some of the issues regarding Literature revision.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to share their perspectives with me. I received many powerful reminders that this is how I grow, this is how my mind changes. My understanding and principles don't grow from sharing my perspectives, they grow when I am introduced to yours. As ex-problem drinkers, our very lives depend upon our constant thoughts of others, and how we may best meet their needs. I can be dense, and often quite blind. Thank you for raising my awareness, for giving of yourselves that others...like me...may find life.

Rainer LeFebvre  
Area 51 Delegate

### **Alternate Delegates Report**

Good Afternoon Everyone! My name is Julie and I am an Alcoholic gratefully serving as your Area Alternate Delegate. Today I get to report on some Financials from GSO and a few fun musings from my time so far as Alternate Delegate.

Here are the financial highlights from GSO:

GSO received \$10.26 million in 7th Tradition contributions! That is a record setting number with the previous being \$8.86 million in 2019. This is good news! I wish to pass along a huge thank you from GSO for those contributions. How does \$10.26 million get to GSO? \$6 million was contributed by 24,779 groups. That is only 34.8% of total groups contributing. This could be better if more groups participated. I do remember a pandemic going on. Here is a nifty part. \$4.3 million was individual contributions. Why is that nifty? Because in 2019 individual contributions totaled \$1.9 million. This is good that individual contributions more than doubled. The fellowship really stepped up as 94.9% of the cost of services was covered by self-support and little was funded through literature sales. Online contributions nearly doubled while the mailed in contributions increased slightly. We are embracing technology as a fellowship. Perhaps another silver lining from the Covid 19 pandemic?

AAWS publishing gross profits were \$6.58 million. That's down 30% from 2019. The operating expense totaled \$15,652,814. just missing the budgeted expense by \$58,814. So close! This is actually not terrible, in my opinion, considering a lot of businesses suffered last year. With the pandemic going on there were not a whole lot of in-person gatherings to pick up a new book. Perhaps more electronic media is needed for the fellowship?

Grapevine print subscriptions decreased 4.5% in 2020, but don't be too concerned because subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine increased 7.7%. Perhaps we are shifting more towards electronic media? The Grapevine had a gross profit of \$1.23 million on the magazine and a gross profit of \$354,304 on other published items. The Operating expense of \$1.91 million resulted in an overall loss of \$298,699. So close to coming in even. In other words, if you think the Grapevine is important then support the Grapevine and get a subscription to share! Nothing beats a Grapevine joke during a pause in a meeting. Try it out!

La Viña's circulation decreased by 36.6% and the General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$385,771. Remember La Viña is a service that AA provides. We can do a better job to share that it is available to our Spanish speaking members and support that service.

Here are some Statistics that I think are interesting from 2020. There are 1,473,390 AA members and 71,190 Groups. That's a lot of Alcoholics. The cost to provide services for every member in 2020 was \$7.34. 7th Tradition Self Support contributions averaged out to be \$6.81 per member. So per member, AA spent \$7.34 and we gave \$6.81. The total cost of AA services was \$10.81 million. Remember I said 7th Tradition Self Support contributions were \$10.26 million? So close! This is good news. We were only \$.53 shy per AA member to take care of everyone through our own contributions. We can keep this up. Every half dollar counts!

The Prudent Reserve had a \$4 million draw down last year because GSO needed funds on hand to help cover expenses on projects like the 8th floor construction, refunding International Convention Fees, a Voluntary Retirement Incentive, and new software systems. This is exactly why we have a prudent reserve. It is to take care of us if the world goes into a pandemic. The current prudent reserve covers 9.27 months of operating expenses. This is not a terrible thing as the prudent reserve for 2019 covered 9.4 months. In 2011 we almost had an entire year covered in the prudent reserve. The plan is to build the prudent reserve back up over the next couple of years.

Now back to the middle of the Triangle, that's all the news I have to report from the pointy end at the bottom of the Triangle. If your eyes glazed over from all of those numbers, you can get a copy of my report at the end of the 2021 Spring Assembly minutes.

Rainer and I held 14 virtual pre-conferences and 1 in-person preconference with our Spanish speaking members, that's 32 hours of talking agenda items! A good practice for Rainer with the 74 long hours he spent logged into the Conference. He did learn to get a more comfortable chair. We want to thank all of you who logged in and a special thank you to our Spanish speaking members for the wonderful event in Wendell. The food was delicious and that was my first back to in-person meetings and it was a great one to grab a seat right in the middle of AA.

Guess which Preconference topic had the most attendees. Literature! Both the carry over items from the 70th General Service Conference and the new agenda items from the 71st General Service conference. I know Rainer has talked about the outcome of the Agenda items from this year's conference, but really it was all of you who logged in and participated in some really great discussion that really helped prepare him to be the "Unafraid" Delegate from North Carolina. A few of you found time to log into multiple events and one of you really deserves an almost perfect attendance award! I will find you at the next in-person event.

The Area has put on some wonderful virtual workshops and I hope you all were able to attend. Our coordinators will share about them in their reports. Pass the word on about these events, they are not "secret service" workshops. Service is for all and General Service needs leaders. Communication is what our service structure is about. Without good communication and leadership, we cannot achieve harmony and unity within our fellowship.

Lastly, I want to thank those who have invited me to their groups. I have virtually traveled across the state (and the country too) and the love, hope and gratitude in a zoom room is real. People are getting and staying sober and the hand of AA (even the virtual hand) is open and reaching out to the next alcoholic. Please reach out to any of us at the Area level. Invite us, ask questions, let us know what is going on and how we can help, tag along! AA in North Carolina has not skipped a beat during these interesting times. Area 51 is active in Service.

I continue to pray for Rainer's health and safety. And his Internet connection.  
In Love and Service,  
Julie R

### **Literature Report**

I'm Pat Brennan and I'm an alcoholic. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your Area 51 Literature Coordinator. With the ongoing restrictions, and Area 51 events having been in the virtual space, I have not attended any in person events for literature sales to this point. I'm looking forward to getting out now that we are open again and am waiting on that first request (hint, hint)

We did have a workshop on January 14th "Conference Approved Literature: What is it? How did it Come About? Why is it Important?"

Our Archivist, Keith, gave an enlightening presentation on the history of how Conference Approved Literature came to be. Keith did an outstanding job of walking us through the twists and turns of the early group conscience and some of the early literature that didn't make the cut, like the "Akron Pamphlets." That Dr Bob had developed because he considered the language in the Big Book to be a bit too "high brow".

Our immediate past Delegate and chair of the Conference Committee on Literature, Katy, did a very instructional powerpoint on the Conference process of approving literature. The Schoolhouse Rock bit, I'm Just a Bill.

Our past Delegate, and past Appointed Committee Member, Teresa F, concluded with a very instructive powerpoint on why conference approved literature is so important to our Third Legacy of Service. Teresa's shared experience of being an Appointed Committee Member while the pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality" was being developed provided a vivid illustration of how the 2nd Tradition is truly at work in Conference Approved Literature.

On March 14th, we held an online workshop focused on Researching Issues and Possible Solutions To Accessing our Book "RIPTAB". This discussion centered around the video produced by GSO, and the Conference Committee On Literature Agenda Item U. There were some thoughtful and lively discussions that hopefully broadened participants understanding of existing impediments to some still suffering alcoholics ability to comprehend and take hold of the message contained in our book. Speaking of workshops and our book: As Rainer reported, there is a 5th edition of the book in the offing, and there will be a solicitation for stories from the fellowship, so.....

We have been able to enlist the services of the dynamic duo, Katy and Teresa, once again, for a workshop on August 1st "Sharing your experience, strength, and hope in writing.". The time is still to be determined, as well as whether it will be strictly online or hybrid. How blessed are we that we have 2 past delegates, an English teacher and a published author who are willing to help with this. It should be great!

In AA Love and Service.  
Pat Brennan  
Area 51 Literature Coordinator

### **Grapevine Report**

Hello trusted servants of Area 51!! My name is Brooks Downs, I am an alcoholic and currently serving as the Area 51 Grapevine Coordinator. Since we last met I have gotten to be in touch via email with two new GV reps, Susan in D43 and Matt in D33, a grand thank you to all the DCM's that got back to me with their GV reps info!! If anybody else has info to pass along regarding a new or existing GV rep in their district/intergroup please reach out to me at [grapevine@aanorthcarolina.org](mailto:grapevine@aanorthcarolina.org) and I can get them headed into spreading the Grapevine passion!!

After the Spring Into Action Conference I got an intuitive thought to call Josh Eggleston who is currently a Trustee on the General Service Board and the Chair of the Grapevine Board to get his input on a virtual workshop. Josh spoke enthusiastically of attending the International Conference in Puerto Rico where all the participants had headphones on for interpretation and the unity he felt as a result. He prompted me to investigate an interpretation tool thru zoom for a hispanic/english virtual workshop. There were a few difficulties in making that happen so we are now having a live event June 19 from 10-2 at Lake Wheeler in Raleigh with La Vina and Grapevine representation-please come join us!! Josh highlighted the fact that La Vina has been in publication for 25 years this year so it is a perfect way to celebrate!!

We are teaming with Julian who is the La Vina Coordinator in D30 and whom I got to meet at the live Hispanic Precon in Wendell on March 28th. Julian has given me Marios contact info and I look forward to visiting District 5 to celebrate La Vinas 25 years with them also!! I did get to pop onto the virtual precon held on April 11 where we spoke of changing the language in the Preamble to be more gender neutral and at Conference this year they passed the changes to read "AA is a fellowship of people ..."

As a result of showing up at the Spring into Action Conference this year I got to meet Joe R whom I spoke of at Winter Committee meeting because of his Grapevine enthusiasm and I got to go join in more of his energy at their District hybrid meeting in Jamestown near High Point where they let me do a GV history and give Joe some handouts for his meeting rounds! He recently shot me a picture with him in front of his Grapevine trifolds and they look spectacular!! What a gift to see a fellow blossom in carrying the message!!

WE HAVE TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS!! One is GV "Free on the Inside: Stories of AA Recovery in Prison" and the second is "Mujeres en AA: Historias de mujeres pioneras e hispanohablantes que se han recuperado del alcoholismo" Please get your copies on [aagrapevine.org/store](http://aagrapevine.org/store) and don't forget to get your sponsees or sponsor a subscription to the Grapevine as an anniversary gift!! Subscriptions are the best way to support our 'meeting in print'.

Thank you for letting me be of service in carrying the message thru Grapevine passion!!  
Brooks Downs  
Area 51 Grapevine Coordinator

### **Archives Report**

I am an alcoholic and my name is Keith M. and it is my privilege to serve as your Area 51 Archivist. I'd like to thank the Archives Committee for all their support and help.

I have been privileged to be involved with the Growth and Maintenance Committee. Since the last Committee meeting, we've been very busy getting things organized. Dale L. Chair of the G&M Committee provided full details earlier.

I've also been a part of the Zoom Ops team for the Assembly, State Convention and various workshops. Its been a blast to get to know folks I would otherwise not mix with.

The Archives Committee continues to digitize objects in the repository. This will be an ongoing process until all items such as audio tapes, paper records and films are digitized and made available via an online resource for Area 51 AA members to utilize.

The Archives displays have been updated and repaired for a time when we can all be together again.

Zoom has given us a great opportunity for conducting Oral Histories of Area 51 members.

This spring I applied for help with our Archives from the NC State Archives and specifically their Traveling Archives Program. I am happy to announce we were accepted into their program and are now receiving professional guidance on processing and digitizing our Archives.

Last year I was approached by members of AA in Area 51 who wanted to know more about the history of LGBTQIA and African American groups in our area. When conducting research, I was told that unless the home groups had LGBTQIA or "Black" in the name of the group I wouldn't be able to find them in the archives. I'm not giving up on this request. I will find a way to provide details on these groups' rich history. More to come soon.

As some of you know I am attending NCCU which is historically black university in Durham, North Carolina. I am getting my Masters in Library Science – Archives and Records Management. During a recent study session with other students (12 students I was the only white student), I asked them what I could do to help end racism in America. One of the three suggestions they made was to get involved and do something with a group of like-minded people. They suggested I chose a group that I had an emotional attachment too, and help that group become more diverse in its membership. I immediately thought of AA and more specifically Area 51. ...AA in North Carolina. Now I do not have an answer for this, but I want an answer, I want to be a part of enhancing the diversity of our membership in AA for Area 51. I need your help, please help me figure out what can we do in Area 51 to move toward a more diverse inclusive membership where everyone, no matter how they look or how they identify feels safe and a part of AA in Area 51. Please share your ideas with me, your home group, your district and fellow AA members via sharing sessions.

Thank you for listening....

If you, your home group or district would like a workshop done on the history of AA in NC and or specifically the history of your home group, home town or district please email me at [archivist@aanorthcarolina.org](mailto:archivist@aanorthcarolina.org) so we can discuss our options.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Area 51 Archivist.

Yours in love and service,

Keith M.

### **Budget and Finance Report**

I have the honor and privilege of being your chair for The Budget and Finance Subcommittee. The committee met on Friday, May 21, 2021.

-We discussed the determination of why we postponed proposing at the Spring Assembly, Agenda Item: GSR Assistance Fund. Being that we grow at the speed of trust. We agreed that there was sufficient time to ensure this was proposed correctly and presented at the fall assembly.

-We were assigned the task of discussing and coming up with our suggestion for the following:

Stevie D. Area51 Treasurer - brought to our attention that 57th Annual International Women's Conference of AA, contributed a generous amount \$11,725.00 to Area 51. Most of our meeting was spent on this. After much discussion. The committee's unanimous decision was to suggest that we accept the funds. We concluded no reason not to accept this contribution and to extend this recommendation at the Area Committee Meeting on Friday May 21, 2021.

After a lengthy discussion, it was voted & passed by the Area Committee to accept the donation. We, the Area Committee, were all in agreement that the money should be spent in a timely manner so that the funds do not fall into a surplus funds and default to GSO. We feel as though the IWC gave these funds to be used in Area 51.

Lastly, this led us, being the B&F Committee, to continue discussing, establishing deadlines for home-groups to suggest how any and all excess funds are to be spent. The B & F plans to meet again promptly, to discuss and finalize the plan for informing the groups of the deadline for their suggestions.

-We adjourned at 8:55pm.

-I would like to extend my personal thank you and gratitude to each member of the Budget & Finance Committee for all their hard work.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

### **Growth and Maintenance Report**

The purpose of the Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee is to review, support and advise Area 51 on requested initiatives by Area 51 Chairperson. We continue to be a very busy subcommittee while currently working on 9 initiatives. Each of these 9 has a leader who with a few interested group members independently works on their initiative. We all then meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday for progress reports and determine help needed.

Item 1: Area 51 Asset Inventory: The Asset Inventory spreadsheet our G&M Alternate Chair, Scott H created is in the hands of our Area Officers and Coordinators to list all equipment used to conduct Area 51 business. If you haven't already completed your list, please do so ASAP. The next step is to hand this over to Budget and Finance where an equipment service/purchase Calendar will be put into place.

Item 2: Area 51 inventory: Dale L. and the team developed the Inventory questions and suggested guidelines. These were emailed via zip file to Denise for her review, additions/deletions. I met with Denise via phone and currently, per Denise's recommendation, we're looking at our Spring Assembly, 2022 to conduct the Inventory when we can hopefully anticipate much wider participation.

Item 3: IG/CO 2021- Derek J is our go-to leader with this initiative. A full roster of all Intergroups/ Central Offices has been developed. Additionally, those IG/CO who represent multiple districts are identified as well as those who provide the AA services (CPC, PI, Tx, Corrections, H&I etc.). Now with a channel of communication available, Area 51 Service Coordinators can exchange information relevant to AA general service.

Item 4: P-3 Manual updates, ongoing- Liz G. ADCM, D-71, is our leader with this one. We have documented the process and procedure to review new initiatives submitted to G&M by our Area Chair. In fact, this process was moved forward quickly due to a request from our Area Chair re: a mobile voting app proposed by District 31.

Item 5: G&M Area 51 Website Sub-Page-Keith M., leader. Keith is reaching out to our Website Sub-committee to create our subpage.

Item 6: Area 51 Information Policy – Keith M. A full team including Sue H., Donna B., Denise M., and Nancy B.. In development are the Policy, the Strategic Plan and our Records Lifecycle. Specifically, “records” are a special subset of “information” deemed to have some enduring value to the organization’s attention concerning retention, accessibility, and retrieval. A test Google Workplace has been created to see how and if this might function as a records management system for Area 51.

Item 7- Area 51 Technology Committee- The Website Subcommittee is currently reviewing the option for a new Area 51 Technology Committee.

Item 8- Voting via Mobile App- Scott H with Liz G. leading here. This is a proposal sent by District 31 to our Area Chair who sent it to G&M to review and advise. An update has been emailed to District 31. Currently, at our request, our Delegate, Rainer, has reached out to other areas to share what experience they may have with this platform. Recognizing the time and energy D-31 put into their proposal, rest assured, we will do our due diligence!

Item 9- G&M Process/Procedure for reviewing new initiatives forwarded by the Area Chair. Completed! Thank you for this opportunity to serve. It’s an honor and a privilege to serve the most amazing and talented people on this subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dale L. DCM D-71, G&M Chair

### **Site Investigation Report**

Hello friends! It is an honor to serve you as the Area 51 Site Investigation Chair. At our meeting last week, we elected Charlotte S. as our Alt Chair. Currently, we have received 5 bids for the events to be held in 2023-2025. This is a low number of returned bids compared to the 44 requests to bid that we sent out. We have hotels that took this time to renovate while their numbers were down. There are some hotels who did not want to bid on events that are 2 years out, especially our smaller events (Winter and Summer Committee meetings.) Although the number of bids is low, we are very pleased with 4 out of the 5 bids. We hope to receive a few more bids before bringing a motion forth to the Summer Committee meeting.

In service,  
Lindsey S.  
Site Investigation Chair  
D43 DCM

### **CPC Report**

Our first cpc/pi workshop featured District 71’s work with cooperation with members of the clergy. It was held on May 2nd with 18 participants including 2 out of state A.A.s and members of Metrolina and Tri-County Intergroups. Flyers are posted to the area website.

Future workshops will be held bi monthly on Sundays from 2-4 and focus on improving referrals to A.A. based on the 2014 Membership Survey and available conference approved resources. Dr. Mooney will be the speaker at our August 15th workshop. The cpc/pi contacts list has increased from 12 to 21 and now includes contacts in both Raleigh and Charlotte. I attend CPC North America, PI/CPC working group, Area 49 and Metrolina CPC committee meetings on a monthly basis.

### **PI Report**

My name is Marty McGee, and I am a grateful recovering alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 51 Public Information Coordinator. Unfortunately, I have had some personal issues that I have been trudging through since the start of the year. So, I have not been able to attend as many events as I would like. However, I did attend the 2021 Spring Into Action Conference held in Sanford in February.

I regret I was unable to attend the Area 51 CPC/PI workshop held earlier this month. However, Jon and I are planning future workshops possibly even up to once every 60 days. I have been fully vaccinated and with COVID restrictions being lifted in many locations I am now available to travel to local districts and meetings if you would like me to put on a workshop or participate in an event. I am also available by phone or email to help answer any questions or coordinate with local committees. Thank you for allowing me to serve.  
Yours in Love & Service,

Marty McGee  
Area 51 Public Information Coordinator  
pi@aanorthcarolina.org

828-221-6264

### **Corrections Report**

All prisons and jails (to my knowledge) are still closed to AA volunteers and have been since March 2020. No definitive word on when these facilities will open up for volunteers to come inside again, but hope it will be soon. I have been advised by Department of Public Safety that when volunteers are allowed back in it will likely be a requirement that they have received the COVID vaccination(s).

Caledonia Prison program staff has reached out to District 91 about the possibility of having a virtual meeting but they have requested that AA videos be provided to them.

Carteret Correctional Center has provided recertification training for 5 AA volunteers so they will be eligible to carry a meeting inside once meetings are allowed to resume, which they seemed to think would be soon.

Virtual Corrections Workshop is being held on Zoom in conjunction with the Area 51 Spring Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin L.

Area 51 Corrections Coordinator

### **Website Subcommittee Report**

Sue H, grateful alcoholic, chair of the Website Subcommittee.

The subcommittee is working well, meeting once a month on the second Friday of the month on Zoom. We are managing our list of action items in Microsoft ToDo, and our webmaster Kavaruss is doing a fantastic job improving the website and looking for ways to improve our member's experience with our web presence.

We are working with the Growth and Maintenance committee to update the P3 to include information on our policies that have, until now, been stored in a separate document. We are reviewing what information can and should be stored in a non-password protected area, balancing the need for information from our fellowship with the need to limit visibility to other information (examples being agenda for upcoming meetings, that require a password to view)

We are grateful to have on our committee trusted servants with a technology background and interest to help guide the committee on the best way to stay near the cutting edge. For example, Rick (the previous webmaster) is an actively engaged participant, as is Troy M and Everett D, among others. If you have an interest in helping, please reach out to me or another committee member. And finally, we are looking at ways that technology can guide and assist the fellowship, and working with the Growth and Maintenance committee to determine what parts of these new areas and responsibilities the website subcommittee can absorb. We thank our fellowship for working with us, as we strive to make the information accessible and reachable.

### **Spanish Language Report**

It is my privilege to serve as your Area 51 Interpreter. If you will bear with me, I am going to give the report in both, English and in Spanish.

Since our Area 51 Fall Committee Meeting & Election Assembly last year, I attended three events in an official capacity. Being invited to doing anything for AA, as you know, is always a real honor and privilege.

#### **ATTENDED:**

Nov 15 – Translated for Keith, our Area 51 Archivist at a workshop in Raleigh for districts 5 & 30.

Mar 6 – Winter Committee Meeting in Raleigh to translate for our linguistic districts while it was on zoom.

Mar 28 – Spanish Pre-Conference in Wendell to translate for our area delegate.

Note. I inventoried the Interpreter's equipment on hand and submitted it to Scott as requested.

(Soundproof booth, Transmitter, 20 receivers w/ear piece, 2 bx batteries, 2 headsets (one new/one old).

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Jun 19 – GV workshop at Lake Wheeler Park to translate for districts 5 & 30.

Jul 15-18 – 72nd NC AA State Convention

I look forward to the rest of the year to fellowship and continue to serve as God would have me serve. That's all I have to report at this time. Thank you.

In Love and Service,

Rick Lara

Area 51 Interpreter

### **Webmaster Report**

Hey all, I'm Kavaruss, alcoholic. This is the webmaster's report. First, I would like to extend much gratitude Sue, the current web committee chair, and the web committee team for doing such an amazing job with being very effective at continued improvements for the website and handling our priorities.

### **Districts and Meeting Guide App**

We currently list meetings for the Area on the website at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/meetings/>. The list pulls from districts/intergroups who have synced with the Meeting Guide App ([https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/meeting-guide](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide)). If you do not see your local meetings in the list then please have your district webmaster contact me at [webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org](mailto:webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org). The criteria to sync is listed on the meetings page. It's my hope that in time, we can have more districts synced with the Meeting Guide app, allowing newcomers to quickly find a local meeting. We also have a task to create a districts/intergroup page that will link to the respective district/intergroup site if the meetings are listed there as well. Many people have asked about the meetings that are currently covered by <https://www.triangleaavirtual.com/> as they are not presently on the area website. We are in coordination with that intergroup so that we can get these meetings synced. Our hope is to resolve that soon.

### **Performance/UX**

There is a continued focus to ensure that website is loading and performing as efficiently as possible. We have made further changes to some plugins that have slowed down the app. We have also added a staging site (when needed) to make sure that we can more safely update the site and check for any breaking changes while upgrading plugins or implementing a new feature. We have listened to suggestions for the user experience and style of the website and have accommodated those suggestions for the most part. We welcome more requests. Please contact us through the website using our Contact Page at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/contacts/contact-us/>.

### **Events**

I have changed how events appear on the website. We are using a new plugin and are able to see the upcoming events on the side bar. By clicking on the Events link in the top menu, you can see all of the events that have been scheduled as well as past events. Some events have just the date posted and will be populated as soon as those details are available. Please reach out to the web committee and me for any new events that you want to see! All events must adhere to the website policies that are posted on the website at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/policies-guidelines-bestpractices/>.

### **Notifications**

We have added an ability to subscribe to notifications on the home page of the website at the bottom of the screen: <http://aanorthcarolina.org>. We decided to keep it simple, so only your email address is needed. One subscribed, when there is an event or specific page that needs to be highlighted, we will send an email to the subscriber. Anyone can unsubscribe at any time.

### **Form Changes**

We are in the process of modifying the Group Change forms as well as trying to streamline the contribution process. We have also added an ability to request the district passwords so that our AA members can access password-locked documents.

### **Contacts**

We have made a few updates the contacts page at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/contacts/>, primarily making sure that each of the Area committee members' aanorthcarolina email addresses are present to make it easier to contact the respective member. We still plan to have a contacts page for every Area Officer, Service Coordinator, Convention, and Subcommittee/workgroup. In order to do so, we suggest that you provide us with the content that you would like to see on your page! Otherwise, we can add a generic template and make updates as needed.

### **Task System**

Thanks to the incredible work of our website committee chair, Sue H., we have implemented a task system to document all of our work. Each request that you make to either me or the committee gets logged and prioritized. If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns, etc., in the general case, please email the website chair at [webchair@aanorthcarolina.org](mailto:webchair@aanorthcarolina.org) and copy me at [webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org](mailto:webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org). We will follow up as soon as possible and make changes as reasonably as possible. Thanks!

## **Convention Report**

My name is Elizabeth Phillips and I am an Alcoholic and your State Convention Chair. It is really good to see everyone today, even if it is just in a little square.

For the second year you will be able to attend the NC State Convention for free and from the comfort of your own home.

While this is not what we had hoped for, I think we will still be able to have a lot of fun, hear some wonderful Speakers and still be able to see some of the people that we have missed for the last year

First very quickly, I did want to talk about why we decided to make the Convention Virtual this year. The Committee waited as long as we could to make the decision on whether to be In-person, Virtual or Hybrid. We did a lot of research, including several polls and going to websites such as the CDC and the NC Coronavirus information page.

We all took time to think and pray about it, then held a meeting where everyone got to discuss what they felt was the right thing to do. It was felt that, at that time, there was just too many unknowns to have an In-person or Hybrid meeting. We also were afraid that with only half of the fellowship not being ready to go to an in-person Convention that we would not have been able to meet our expenses causing us to go fairly heavily into our prudent reserve. When we took the vote it was unanimous that we should hold a virtual Convention for one more year.

While we were all hoping for a different answer, our Committee has worked very hard to make it as close to an In-person meeting as possible

We have:

6 speakers that I am very excited about hearing.

2 Workshops

A Design for Living that Works in Rough Going and

A Design for Living From Steerage to Captain's Table

Old-timers Panel

God as I Understand Him

Marathon Meetings

And after hearing about how fun the Dance was at the Virtual International Women's Conference, we thought we would give it a try at our Convention as well. I hope you will all come so that you can at least say that you have attended a Virtual Dance.

You will also be able to visit with our Speakers in a Zoom room after each of their talks.

We will also be offering Zoom Rooms for you to use. We all recognize how difficult it is to have several Different Conversations in a Zoom Room, so we are going to offer break out rooms that you can request from the Host, so that you can spend some time with your friends.

We will also be offering AA Trivia with our Area Archivist and A Couple of Yoga Classes.

Who knows if people enjoy these, we might offer them again next year.

While the Convention will be free, we are asking people to register in order to help with the Security. The login information will be emailed to you the night before the Convention.

The Zoom Operator has put a Copy of the Flier in the Chat for you to download. You can click on the links on the Flier and they will take you to that website.

I hope you will all join us this year, as we not only celebrate our Sobriety, but to celebrate that AA not only Worked, but worked well during one of the most difficult times in our recent History.

### **Treatment Facilities Report**

1. Attended Spotlight on Service event 11/15/2020.

2. Attended Eastern US/Canada Virtual Forum 12/05/2020.

3. Transitioned treatment facility supplies from past coordinator 12/20/2020.

4. Statewide mass emailing of letter of Introduction to Treatment Facilities 01/05/2021.

5. Updated North Carolina Treatment Facilities and Providers Handbook/folder 01/05/2021. I now have a digital version that has been updated for 2020.

6. Attended Literature Workshop 01/17/2021.

7. Contacted all DCM's requesting TF coordinator/chair contact information and updated them on current status of the in-person meetings going into facilities. Also requested feedback on any information about in-person meetings, BTG, and any needed audiovisual or printed materials. 02/02/2021. I did get some feedback from a few districts.

8. Updating BTG contact list 02/02/2021. Planning to make a digitize version.

9. Contact District 23 TFC Della M. New meeting going into Cone Behavioral Health, Greensboro. 02/03/2021

10. Contact Brandon S. (Peer Support Specialist) @ R.J Blackley ADATC \*Butner\* He is requesting the return of in-persons meetings to the facilities. This is still on hold due to Covid19. This information was passed on to District 33 TFC. Continuing to follow up on progress 02/03/2021, 04/15/2021.

11. Contact Chris W. (Peer Support Specialist) @ Novant Health Care (RCM) He is requesting new AA meetings into the Behavioral Medicine Unit. This information was passed on to District 21 TFC and WPIA. Continuing to follow up on progress 02/05/2021. Members are now taking meetings into the facility.

12. Contact Cara M. (mental Health Tech) @ Alamance Regional (ARH) She is requesting meetings into the Behavioral Medicine Unit. Waiting for more correspondence before passing it on to District 33 TFC. 02/05/2021.

13.Continuing to send the District's TFC/chair information on all treatment related happenings such as, Meetings going into facilities, audio-video materials, BTG volunteers list and workshop events.

14.Attend Into-Action Conference February 27th in Sanford with a display.

15.Attend US/Canada Treatment Forum on Zoom February 27th .

16.I host a TF workshop for Area 51 April 3rd.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your area's treatment facilities coordinator,  
Stanley H.,  
(919) 923-7642 | [stanleyhurlston1@gmail.com](mailto:stanleyhurlston1@gmail.com)

### **Accessibilities Report**