

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

**SUMMER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21- AUGUST 22, 2021
CHARLOTTE AIRPORT HOTEL, CHARLOTTE, NC**

SECRETARY
PO BOX 470275
CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28247

#	MAIN MOTIONS	ACTION TAKEN	PG.
1	Accept the Minutes of Winter 2021 Committee Meeting as amended.	Passed Without Opposition	5
2	Accept the Minutes of Spring 2021 Committee Meeting as amended.	Passed Without Opposition	5
3	Approve the Second Quarter 2021 Financial Statement. Motion to Table until Financial Statement is updated. Approve Corrected Second Quarter 2021 Financial Statement	Passed Without Opposition	5 12
4	Determine the districts hosting the 2022 Pre-Conferences. W: Ds 70/71 (co-hosting) Date: 4/2/2022; C: D23 Date: 3/26/2022; E: Ds 92/93 (co-hosting) Date: 4/9/2022; Sp; D05 Date: 4/10/2022	Passed Without Opposition	7
5	That the 2022 Area 51 Corrections Conference, “33 rd Freedom from Bondage” be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, N.C. on March 11-13, 2022.	Passed Without Opposition	8
6	That Area 51 adopt the GSR Unity Fund as a permanent budgeted item to allow GSRs with financial difficulty to participate in Area assemblies. The Unity Fund will continue to support 4 rooms at each Assembly covering an annual maximum of 8 room nights. .	Passed Without Opposition	9
7	That Area 51 utilize the Zoom Account on a permanent basis. The Area Chair or designee will determine assignment and use of the Account.	Passed With Substantial Unanimity	9
8	Motion: To approve the proposed Area 51 2022 Budget as Amended.	Passed With Substantial Unanimity	9
9	That the Alternate Convention Chair become a member of the Committee with a voice, but no vote, unless the Convention Chair is absent. Motion is Amended to Read: That the Alternate Convention Chair become a member of the Committee with a voice, but no vote, unless Convention Chair is absent. Travel expenses will come from the Area Budget to match the Convention Chair’s expenses.	Passed Without Opposition	11 12

10	<p>The 2023 Summer Committee Meeting be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center.</p> <p>That the 2023 Fall Committee / Assembly be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.</p> <p>That the 2024 Winter Committee Meeting be held at the Hilton Charlotte Airport</p> <p>That the 2024 Spring Committee / Assembly Meeting be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.</p> <p>That the 2024 State Convention be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.</p> <p>That the 2024 Summer Committee Meeting be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center.</p> <p>That the 2024 Fall Committee / Election Assembly be held at Lake Junaluska.</p> <p>That the 2025 Spring Committee / Assembly be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.</p> <p>That the 2025 State Convention be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.</p> <p>Per 2021 Spring Advisory Action, Winter Committee Meeting 2024 and Winter Committee Meeting 2025 will be selected at a later date.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Friendly amendment to the motion added the following: “That the 2024 Winter Committee Meeting be held at the Hilton Charlotte Airport “ and then anywhere Winter Committee 2024 is listed in background information be crossed off because decision is made</p>	Passed with Substantial Unanimity	13
			14
11	<p>The Committee authorizes the Chair to organize and implement a hybrid 2021 Fall Assembly at Lake Junaluska, not to exceed \$?,???. This is not a mandate to the Chair to hold a hybrid event should it prove too costly or technically challenging to provide an equitable virtual/in-person experience.</p> <p>Motion to Amend by adding “not to exceed \$15,000.”</p> <p>Amended Motion</p>	<p>Motion to Amend Passed with Substantial Unanimity</p> <p>Motion Fails for Lack of Substantial Unanimity</p>	14
			17
			18
12	The Theme for the Fall 2021 Assembly will be as follows: AA’s Future - It begins with us	Passed Without Opposition	19
13	The Workshops, in accordance with this theme, will be as follows: English: 1) How to be an effective GSR; 2) Safety within our meetings; 3) Upside down Triangle - our voices matter and 4) Back to Basics... 1,2,3. Spanish: 1) How to be an effective GSR and 2) Safety within our meetings.	Passed Without Opposition	19
14	That the Area 51 Website Policies ‘Public Content and Features’ be augmented to allow notices of Area 51 intergroup, district and YPAA-sponsored events to be posted on the Area 51 Website.	Passed Without Opposition	22
15	That the Area 51 Website Policies ‘Public Content and Features’ be modified such that the Area Assembly meeting notices (without background details), Area Assembly meeting agendas (without background details), and Area Assembly schedule be accessible in the ‘Public Content and Features’ section.	Passed Without Opposition	23

16	<p>That the Area 51 Website Policies Composition be amended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add subcommittee voting privileges to the webmaster • Add the role of subcommittee Technical Advisor, of which there can be multiple, with subcommittee voting privileges to serve a one-year term which can be renewed multiple times. The advisors are first approved by the website subcommittee and recommended for approval at the winter committee meeting, for the year long-term starting at the conclusion of that winter committee meeting. • Clarify the third bullet under 'Scope' to mirror wording elsewhere in the P3 • Move the Website Composition, Scope and Procedure content to the P3 under the description of Website Subcommittee, and reference that in the Website Policies document available from the Area 51 website, among other locations 	Passed Without Opposition	24
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Opening of the Committee Meeting

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

Opening reading: Charlotte W. DCM, D51 read an excerpt from "AA Tomorrow" found in Bill W.'s The Language of the Heart, p. 308.

"Now comes the question: Where do we go from here and what is our responsibility for today and for tomorrow? Clearly our first duty to AA's future is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this. Never should we be lulled into complacent self-satisfaction by the wide acclaim and success that is everywhere ours. This is the subtle temptation which could stagnate us today, perchance disintegrate us tomorrow. We have always rallied to meet and transcend failure and crisis. Problems have been our stimulants. How well, though, shall we be able to meet the problems of success?

Will we continue to search out the ever present flaws and gaps in our communication? With enough imagination, courage, and dedication, will we resolutely address ourselves to those many tasks of repair and improvement which even now the future is calling upon us to undertake? Still clearer vision and an ever mounting sense of responsibility can be the only answers to these questions."

Before the Panel 71 Officers were introduced, Denise provided the Committee with some updates. Earlier in the month, Beth R. resigned as Area Secretary. She had made a sincere effort to uphold the responsibilities of Area Secretary but was also juggling overwhelming life circumstances. And after thanking her for her service, Denise accepted her resignation. She then approached Lisa P. about serving as Acting Secretary. Lisa has served as Area Literature coordinator, Grapevine coordinator, and most recently as Area Registrar during the Panel 67 term. After a period of prayer and consultation with her sponsor, Lisa agreed. There will be a formal Third Legacy Election at the Fall Assembly for the Area Secretary. The final update concerned the CPC Coordinator, Jon Taurig who was unable to attend this weekend due to a death in the family. Sympathy cards were passed around and collected by Clayborne to be mailed to Jon next week.

Denise introduced the area officers, service coordinators, and chairs of the standing subcommittees and the workgroup. Past Delegates, past and current Trustees, past DCMs and visitors were recognized. Chris G from the Zoom Ops team during the virtual meetings and Troy M., a member of the website subcommittee introduced themselves as visitors. They both have expertise that may be beneficial for Agenda Items on the schedule for the weekend. Denise asked for a sense of the room for both guests to be in the room during the conduction of business throughout the weekend. There was no opposition communicated. The past Delegates present were Kenneth C., Panel 57 and Newton P., Panel 67, Trustee at Large US. Denise then asked if this was anyone's first Committee Meeting. (SEVERAL INDICATED IT was attending their first Committee Meeting.

AREA OFFICERS, STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND PAST DELEGATES

Rainer L, Delegate	Pat B., Literature Coordinator	Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair
Julie R., Alternate Delegate	Brooks D., Grapevine Coordinator	Sue H., Website Chair
Denise M., Area Chair	Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator	Dale L., Growth & Maintenance Chair
Clayborne T., Alternate Chair	Marty M., PI Coordinator	Mat C., Assembly Theme & Workshops
Lisa P., Acting Secretary	Kevin L., Corrections Coordinator	
Steven D., Treasurer	Stanley H., Treatment Coordinator	Newton P., Past Delegate Panel 57
Greg K., Registrar	Kavaruss C., Webmaster	Kenneth C., Past Delegate Panel 67
Keith M., Archivist	Rick L., Spanish Language Interpreter	
Elizabeth P., Convention Chair	Paul M., Budget & Finance Chair	

Roll Call – During the roll call by Lisa P, Acting Secretary, these were the committee members present.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

01 Sarah W.	34 Susan H.	70 Steve R.
02 Roxanne C.	35 George S.	71 Dale L.
11 Roger A.	41 Lianne S.	91 Chuck C.
13 Alison M.	42 Donna W.	92 Viviana S.
18 Catherine W.	43 Lindsey H.	93 Gale P.
21 Donna K.	44 Stacey Ann D.	
23 Adrian C.	45 Ken M.	
31 Mathew C.	50 Scott H.	
32 Kevin K.	51 Charlotte S.	
33 Paul M.	60 Donald S.	

ALTERNATE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

02 Kerry G.	34 Craig H.
04 Scott C.*	35 Richard G.
05 Felix H.*	41 Mark D.
11 Randy C.	42 Bonnie W.
21 Wendy A-H.	43 Anthony S.
30 Guadalupe A.*	71 Elizabeth G.
31 Wanda C.	80 Angi A.*
32 Denise I.	

*Alt DCM with a vote

Administrative announcements/Housekeeping Items- Denise M., Clayborne T.

Before Denise introduced our liaison with the hotel during the weekend, the Alternate Chair, Clayborne, she communicated masks were available over on the table with the Committee handouts, as well as the “Ask It Basket” and the 7th tradition cup for coffee consumed during the weekend. She reminded the Committee the position of Spanish Language Translator was still open and that if anyone present was interested in the position or knew of someone who might be, to please contact her at chair@aanorthcarolina.org or Rick L, the current Spanish Interpreter. She reminded us that the Interpreter’s position would rotate out at the end of the Panel 71 term and asked the DCMs to communicate to their districts and groups these positions so services can be maintained.

Clayborne, Alternate Chair, introduced himself, and provided the logistical layout of the hotel including where the smoking areas, rest rooms, elevators, and hand sanitizer stations were located. He informed that parking was free during the weekend and indicated there was only one restaurant within the hotel but that there were several close by. He provided his cell phone number “just in case.”

Denise thanked Clayborne for all his hard work in preparing for the Committee Meeting. She announced that Bonnie W., Alt DCM, D 42. will act as timekeeper; the vote counters are Craig H, DCM, D. 34 and Wanda C, Alt DCM, D. 31. She announced the location of the Parlor for the weekend. The computer in the parlor may be used to type and or print a report, but please note that the Parlor is open only when one of the officers is present. Denise asked if anyone had trouble making reservations and informed us that she is the person to contact should anyone have issues in the future. She announced that we met our room block by the deadline, giving the Area free meeting space, and thanked everyone for making reservations early. She reminded us that we need to make our reservations soon for the Fall Assembly because Lake Junaluska typically sells out early. She also pointed out the meal package that is available for Lake Junaluska. Additionally, she indicated there was no request made to use the Unity Fund at this event. She reminded everyone that there are 2 rooms available for DCMs for the Fall Assembly and requests to the Chair must be made before the reservation deadline of October 15th; the requests will be on a first come-first served basis. Denise reminded DCMs, Coordinators and Past Delegates that they should have picked up a packet of information needed for the weekend from the table in the back. She went through and explained the contents of the packets. The schedule included eleven Agenda items, many of which that could involve extended discussion to make an informed decision, coupled with reports from the officers, coordinators and subcommittee chairs. Denise requested that since this was a very busy Committee meeting with an ambitious agenda, that all voting members stay through the entire weekend to keep quorum.

Adoption of Agenda

Before she asked for adoption of the Agenda, Denise noted that because this was an ambition agenda, that each of the sessions – Afternoon, Evening and Morning – may be extended if the discussion goes longer than the times she had approximated for each item. Denise asked if there were any objections to the adoption of the agenda. Hearing none, Denise ruled the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of the Rules of Order and Debate

Clayborne reviewed “How the Area 51 Committee/Assembly Operates” adapted from the rules of debate used in our General Service Conference, which are based on Robert’s Rules of Order. Denise asked if there were any objections to their adoption. Hearing none, the rules of order were adopted.

Attached to your Agenda is a Schedule of Upcoming Area 51 Events and Upcoming Other General Service Events in the Southeastern Region and United States. Please distribute this information in your districts.

At the Spring Committee meeting, we did not have the Winter Committee minutes in Spanish, so we postponed approving those to this meeting. Both the English and Spanish versions have been completed, mailed and posted on the website. It is customary for us to waive the reading of the minutes. Are there any objections to this?

There were no objections to waiving the reading of the minutes. Are there any corrections? One email was received that indicated that the spelling of the word “yay” incorrect. Other than the correction of this spelling, are there any other corrections? Hearing none, Denise asked for a motion to accept minutes as amended.

MOTION: Accept the Minutes of Winter 2021 Committee Meeting. Motion made by Sue H., DCM, D.34 and seconded by Charlotte S., DCM, D.51. There was no discussion. **The motion passed without opposition.**

The Minutes of the 2021 Spring Committee Meeting, both English and Spanish, have been completed, mailed and posted on the website. Again, it is customary to waive the reading of the minutes. Are there any objections to do this? Hearing none the reading of the minutes is waived. Are there any corrections or additions to the minutes other than again the spelling of the word “yay?” Hearing none, do I have a motion to accept minutes as amended?

MOTION: Accept the Minutes of Spring 2021 Committee Meeting. Motion made by Sue H., DCM, D. 34 and seconded by Charlotte S., DCM, D.51. There was no discussion. **The motion passed without opposition.**

Treasurer’s Report – Steven D., Treasurer: Stevie first pointed out there are 3000 envelopes available where the address has a corrected label over the address because they were left over from the previous treasurer. Rather than spend money buying new envelopes, he elected to “correct” the address and use the old ones. Changing the address every two years causes contributions to be slow in the first quarters because it takes time for the new address to trickle down to the groups. Stevie covered the financials from the 2nd quarter through June 30th, 2021. The first report he reviewed was the contributions made by district. As of June 30th, he had received \$35,040.98. This report includes a break down for each district contribution. The next report is the 2021 2nd quarter financial statement. He covered the period from 1/1/21 to 6/30/21. He reviewed contributions and total income, expenditures, the various prudent reserves (General Fund, NC Convention, Archives, Corrections Conference, Property & Acquisition) plus the surplus included in the report through June 30, 2021. The total of all accounts, checking, money markets, and Corrections Conference Checking, is \$148,392. Stevie reviewed the 2021 2nd quarter financial report for actual vs. budgeted. The actual as reported is very close to budgeted. We ended up with very few sales, but the balance was made up by a \$11,000 contribution given to the Area by the Women’s International Conference held in Charlotte in February of this year. We will have to decide at some point if that is something you want me to move into the money market account and use on something for the Area. Currently we have a \$49,107.50 variance over what is actual from for what was budgeted. And like I said, later we will need to decide how we want to handle the Women’s International Conference contribution. That is my report. **Please see attached financial statements.**

Questions:

Adrian C. DCM, D. 23: I have a couple of question in so far as the contributions report says \$35,040.98 on June 30th but the 2nd Q financial report says \$31,000; also the numbers don’t total on the 2nd Q, it shows \$11,771 high, which I am assuming is the check but also we show \$93 of interest on the variance report but we don’t show any of it in receipts so I was wondering if we could possibly get a corrected report to approve or something to clear this up?

Rainer L., Delegate, Panel 71: I just wanted to ask a question, I understand a lot of the reduced expenditures due to our virtual meetings but I was surprised to see that website was only spending about 16% of its budget and I did not know if that was a matter of receipts not being turned in or what was going on with that line item that it was so far underspent?

Denise M., Area Chair: Kavaruss or Stevie?

Kararuss C., Webmaster: So, I guess to answer your question, there are some expenses that we try to reduce, we try to reduce as many costs as possible this year so maybe 30 or 40% of the cost have been reduced; there is a \$1200 amount that has not been used, but I think that is just reserve for right now and this is supposed to be as needed. So, I know that doesn’t add up completely to a reduction of 84% but hopefully that helps a little bit.

Denise M., Chair: Thank you Kavaruss. Your very first committee meeting, congratulations. So, Stevie will work on the 2nd quarter financial statement, and we will try to get an updated report to you this evening and come back to that and then get approval of the Treasurer’s report. Next, Greg will you give the Registrar’s report?

Motion: Approve the Second Quarter 2021 Financial Statement. Motion was tabled until updated.

Registrar’s Report-Greg K., Registrar: “Communication within our Fellowship is vital and we are only as good as the information we gather.” Since May Greg has made 163 updates. He indicated we currently have 1,088 groups with 19,555 members. There are also 52 Correctional Facility groups with 1,272 members. Greg has only made 1 update to a Correctional group, so he wondered how accurate those numbers are. He has been working on getting the Area database and the FC (Fellowship Connection) databases to match. He indicated that the database will be switching group numbers from the old FNV (6) number to the new NetSuite ID (9) number. He explained how we can help him; if you register a new group through the Area then he will register it in FC for you, but if you go straight to G.S.O. then he does not get that information from them immediately. If you do register a new

group with G.S.O. please either Cc or forward the information to registrar@aanorthcarolina.org. Please fill out the form completely as most of the fields are required. Greg went on to provide the following pertinent information about registering groups. Every individual with a service position must have a physical mailing address. If you see the words on any form "no address listed" then know you are in the Area database but probably not in the FC database. Also position emails cannot be used for FC database. He indicated that the Delegate and DCM's now have "read only" access. They can see the groups, but they cannot make changes. All DCMs should have received a letter from G.S.O. with a password so he asked them to please check the accuracy of their groups. He informed us that once a service position is entered into FC then the printed kits should go out in approximately 7 -14 business days. If it is a new group, then the group must wait 30 days to receive their new group kit. He indicated that G.S.O. has worked diligently to resolve the "glitch" that had previously delayed the mailing of kits and was now trying to send those they had missed. He also reported of a new feature available in FC since the Spring Assembly where Registrars can now enter virtual groups. There is a drop-down tab for virtual groups just like a regular group or a correctional facility group. Phone groups are considered in the same category as virtual groups for this as well. Greg concluded his report by communicating that he is here to be of service and to not hesitate to contact him.

Please see the attached report.

Alternate Delegate's Report – Julie R., Alternate Delegate: Julie started her report by announcing a fun event being planned around Bill W's December 11th sobriety date. There is a virtual Pan-Continental Special Forum being planned and she asked us to save the date and to spread the word to all GSR's and homegroups. There were 4 topics covered in her report: GSO Financials, Grapevine and La Vina Financials, SSAASA and Final Conference Reports. Julie indicated that to date contributions are 4,976,316 which is already 51% of the 2021 budget and \$911,513 more than this time last year. Literature sales are up \$837,572 over last year as well. She reported that the Grapevine is looking good for the first half of the year with 68,645 paid subscriptions compared to 68,834 for all of 2020. Furthermore, to date, the total cost and expenses of the magazine is \$43,722 lower than budgeted. Julie reported that the paid subscription for La Vina thus far is better than what had been budgeted and that any shortfall for the La Vina service activity will be funded by a transfer from the General Fund of G.S.B. Next Julie reported that the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SSAASA) 6 will be held in Tampa, Florida November 19-21, 2021. Currently the event is still scheduled to be in-person and all the information you will need to attend can be found on the flyer or at SSAASA6.org. Julie reported that among other things, Covid has impacted the delivery of the Final Conference Reports. They are not physically here. However, as soon as they arrive, they will be made available at the following meeting. Meanwhile, Julie indicated that members could access a copy on the Area website in the Delegate's Corner or she will email a copy to you if you prefer. Julie ended her report by thanking Denise for all the hard work she has been doing to navigate Area 51 back to an in-person during these uncertain times. She thanked the Zoom Ops team that helped Area 51 to carry the message virtually when the pandemic shut down the rooms. She reviewed what we have learned through this experience, how important communication is and that it is our responsibility as officers, coordinators, and DCMs to make sure that the information is communicated to every AA member be it in-person or virtually. She talked about the 15 pre-conferences that were available last year instead of the usual 4, but that it felt like maybe less people took advantage of the opportunity. She encouraged us not to become apathetic. She included in her report inspirational words originally conveyed by Homer M, past Delegate, Panel 63; "it is up to us to inform, involve and inspire." Julie concluded her report by saying she was excited to be a part of General Service in Area 51.

Please see the attached report.

Denise announced that there were 46 voting members at the Committee, making the quorum 31.

Denise M., Chair: Rainer are you ready to give Delegate's report? Oh, wait, Stevie has corrected his error. Do you want to make an announcement really quick?

Stevie D., Treasurer: I am an alcoholic named Stevie D. Good afternoon. There was another correction that was brought to me by Atkins, which is, it is not 2019 on the actual budget, it is 2021 and that I will correct. The other one is I did a six months count of the contributions, instead of a just a quarterly contributions so the amount for the quarterly is \$17,398.79; so if we add in the \$11,000 plus there is a \$3000 in other contributions from individuals that comes in other things like Venmo that is not listed here so there is a more accurate account. If we add those 2 together it is \$28,000 plus the \$3000, it matches up to the \$31,000 contributions for the 2nd quarter. Thank you.

Denise M., Chair: He has been handing them out (the revised sheets) but we will circle back and approve that later we don't delay the Delegate's report any longer. Rainer.

Delegate's Report – Rainer L., Delegate: Rainer began and ended his report by talking about change and communication. He first shared that the conference theme for the 71st General Service Conference was "AA in a Time of Change." He indicated that we needed to reflect on the need for change, the need to be adaptive to be effective, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of our AA message. Furthermore, Rainer felt we needed to grow in our understanding and effectiveness. An example he used involved Julie reporting that there was nearly 1 million more in group contributions than last year at this time. He asked if this was because travel and expenses are down or because of new technology, virtual baskets, and Venmo accounts? He suggested we all pause and take a self-appraisal.

General Information Updates: Rainer reported that Bob W is the new General Manager of the General Service Office and that the 3 chairs are Linda Chazem (General Service Board Chair), Jimmy D. (AAWS Chair) and Josh E. (AA Grapevine Chair) – from NC. **AA Grapevine:** Rainer reported that the Communication Service Department had been very busy. They are working on videos, reviewing Google Ad usage, updating contents of the Linked In page, updating the Meeting Guide app and working on a pilot development for AA Podcasts. So far 2 installments have been completed with 10 additional programs underway. The working title is "The Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour." He also reported that the Grapevine Instagram account went live 7/7/21. Rainer

said over 2700 people followed the Grapevine in the first 3 weeks and asked if you have an Instagram account to go look at their page and to follow the Grapevine.

AA World Services: Rainer informed us that there continues to be printing delays related to the pandemic but hopefully the delays will be short term. The AA Service Manual has been revised for the 2021-23 edition with a digital version available 11/5 and the print version 11/26. The only print size will be 8.5 by 11 for \$4.00 each. New pamphlets include "Hispanic Women in AA" and "Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions," which is a revision of "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet. He also revealed that in December Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza, a translation of the Experience, Strength and Hope book will be available. Also, the revised AA Preamble will soon be available, the first sample texts for the Plain and Simple Big Book will be submitted to the Board for review this fall, although the actual timeline to complete the project is projected for several years and Rainer indicated that he would notify the Area when there is a call for personal stories for the 5th Edition of the Big Book. Furthermore, he said they discussed the Literature Committee Consideration to bring a feasibility report to the 72nd Conference on the development of workbooks to help study the program of A.A.

Online Groups: Rainer reported that the Conference had authorized the formulation of a committee to investigate the possibility of online groups participating in the General Service Structure in the US and Canada. The Group Services desk has received a high volume of communication pertaining to online groups but that currently there are many concerns being expressed on the logistics of how to proceed. One of the questions that needs addressing pertains to how the online group would be listed; would it be with the district that they originated from if they began as in-person but evolved into a virtual only meeting or would a new Area (94) need to be created?

CPC/Treatment & Accessibilities/Corrections: The Trustees committee will be developing a focus group with past and present Class A Trustees and other mental health professionals to assist with developing a pamphlet designed for mental health professionals. There is a new Corrections Correspondence Service database that will digitally match persons in custody to members on the outside with speed and efficiency. Moreover, Rainer shared that the Corrections desk shared that their collaboration with AA Grapevine to offer free Grapevine and La Vina subscriptions to persons in custody has been implemented. This is especially exciting given the ongoing Covid restrictions to conduct in-person meetings in Correctional Facilities.

Finance/International Convention & Regional Forums: Rainer indicated that the Budget and Finance Committee recommended the approval of a re-forecasted budget to reflect the strength of the current financial picture. The revised budget was approved and allowed for the replenishment of the reserve fund to help offset last year's drawdowns. Currently the next International Convention is scheduled for Vancouver, B.C in 2025 but with such uncertain times, it is too early for details. Rainer did highlight the more immediate virtual Pan-Continental Special Forum to celebrate Bill W's anniversary on December 11th. This special forum is intended to target remote communities in the far extremes of Canada, South America, and Alaska.

Public Information: We were informed there is a suggestion that GSO Publishing should conduct editorial updates to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity." These updates would reflect current technology terminologies and service resources at the next printing of the pamphlet. It was also noted that more substantive changes may need to be considered to reflect a more current depiction of how members, as members, utilize social media in service committee efforts at the group level and as a Fellowship.

Closing Thoughts: Rainer concluded his report by coming back to ideas and thoughts about change and communication. He told us that since July, the letters received by the AA Grapevine and the other Boards were largely against the change to the AA Preamble. He listed possible reasons that created this reaction, many of which evolved around fear. He communicated his belief that the biggest reason for the negative reaction was poor communication. There had been a message that there was a need for change, that too many in our fellowship had felt excluded and unwelcomed by the language of our Preamble and action was taken. Rainer communicated some of the concepts pertinent to AA: that you are a member if you say you are and if you are an alcoholic, regardless of any other issues as an individual that you might possess, the doors of AA should be open and welcoming. He stated his belief that this is the communication that needs to go forward about the Preamble revision. Furthermore, it is our role in General Service, he stated, to be the channels of communication. Most of the personal responses he has received about changes that occurred at the 71st General Service Conference could be summarized with "why didn't we know? Why didn't my group get to talk about this?" There were 28 Pre-Conference events to discuss Conference Agenda items but somehow many felt the communication was lost. To that end, Rainer, as the Area 51 Delegate made a commitment to make frequent postings to the Delegate's Corner on the Area 51 website. He asked us to help him do better, to communicate better and to better involve the Fellowship in the issues facing AA. He closed his report by expressing his belief that showing up is the most important spiritual principle in AA.

Please share your thoughts with him at delegate@aanorthcarolina.org. Please see the attached report.

AGENDA ITEM #1

Determine the districts hosting the 2022 Pre-Conferences.

Background Information: An Advisory Action passed at the 2008 Fall Assembly provided that in order to promote an informed group conscience, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate are to attend up to three Pre-Conferences annually to discuss General Service Conference agenda items, when hosted by the districts in the Coastal, Piedmont and Mountain regions of Area 51. Background information to the Advisory Action makes clear that the districts from these areas of the state will take responsibility for hosting the Pre-Conferences between mid-March and mid-April and that the districts hosting the Pre-Conferences for the upcoming year will be decided at this Committee Meeting. The format of the Pre-Conferences – the topics and structure – ultimately should be decided by the Delegate, though recommendations supporting direct participation can be made. A three-hour event is recommended for each Pre-Conference.

Denise M., Chair: At this point, I will turn the proceedings over to our Delegate, Rainer L who will conduct carrying out this motion.

Rainer L., Delegate: I am an optimist so I believe we should plan for in-person events but with the uncertainty of our times, I do plan on having some virtual availability. I don't know what that will look like exactly; it might just be an availability for questions for the Delegate and not a formal event. Does anybody have any questions about the process of scheduling a Pre-Conference event?

Wendy A., Alt DCM, D 21: So, my question is for past Pre-Conferences has there been any issues with the hotels or venues that you have booked at if we did have to cancel the event? I know that is important for the site investigation committee, but I am just asking so if we are thinking about being a host for those of us who have never done it.

Rainer L., Delegate: So, in terms of finding a location for holding a Pre-Conference event, that is not an Area responsibility, that will be the responsibility of the hosting district to find a church or a community center within your district to host this event. In terms of rental expense, it is not a large thing. You are renting a church hall for an afternoon, so maybe \$150.00. It can make some Sundays complicated if you are planning your event at a church. In the handout it talks about 1 big room and 6 break outs but some of that is negotiable. We do need some break out space, but we have also been successful in subdividing the room. In terms of a pandemic, I have not heard of a district having difficulty getting out of their plan to rent a church hall. Hopefully this will not be something to worry about by the time we get to Spring 2022.

Sue H., DCM D 34: Do we know what date to shoot for when scheduling our events?

Rainer L., Delegate: The 2022 Pre-Conferences will take place between our Winter Committee (March 5-6, 2022) and the 71st General Service Conference (April 24-30, 2022). There are some regional events that we want to be mindful of not scheduling conflicting dates.

Region	District(s) hosting	Districts supporting	Date of event
Western	70/71 (co-hosting)	11,12,13,14,15,17,21,41,43,44,80	4/2/2022
Central	23	18,19,22,24,30,32,33,42,45,51,52	3/26/2022
Eastern	92/93 (co-hosting)	01,02,03,04,31,34,35,50,60,91,	4/9/2022
Spanish	05	16,30	4/10/2022

Motion: Approve the Pre-Conference dates and the hosting districts: Sue H., D. 34, second Charlotte S., DCM, D. 51. **The motion passed without opposition.**

Corrections Report – Kevin L., Corrections Coordinator: Kevin informed the committee that all NC prisons were closed to outside meetings and not sure when we would be allowed back in. However, there was one prison unit down east that briefly allowed a meeting, but as soon as news reached Raleigh, it too was shut down. This indicates that prison units will not decide individually, but when the NC Dept of Public Safety says they can open. Some of the local jails have been more flexible, specifically Carteret County and there is a rumor that Wake County Detention Center will open in early September, but those are all based on decisions by the local law enforcement. Kevin said vaccinations and masks were required, and he hoped that the recent increase in Covid cases didn't also stop these meetings. Currently the 33rd Freedom from Bondage Conference is being planned for in-person and the Hampton Inn in Southern Pines has agreed to host the event on March 11-13, 2022. Kevin asked for all DCMs to email him contact information for any correction coordinator in their district to corrections@aanorthcarolina.org so he could update his outreach records. **Please see attached report.**

AGENDA ITEM #2

That the 2022 Area 51 Corrections Conference, “33rd Freedom from Bondage” be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, N.C. on March 11-13, 2022.

Background Information: The Area Committee and Area Assembly must approve the proposed location and dates of the annual Area 51 Corrections Conference.

Denise M., Chair: Is there a second?

Marty M., PI Coordinator: I second.

Motion passed without opposition.

Convention Report - Elizabeth P., Chair: Elizabeth stated that the Convention theme this year was “A Design For Living That Works.” It was held on zoom and we had 720 people registered from 17 different states and 5 countries. The was \$1,530 in voluntary contributions since the convention was free. Elizabeth indicated that because it was held on zoom, they had to create the Convention mostly from scratch and this created a tremendous amount of unexpected work for all of the people on the committee. For this reason, she asked each of us to take time to specifically thank anyone on the committee for their time and hard work. In addition to 2 English workshops, the Old Timers Panel, marathon meetings and 5 fabulous speakers, this year included a Spanish workshop which our Interpreter, Rick L., translated from English to Spanish, AA trivia, a virtual dance and even a couple of yoga and Pilates classes. Elizabeth thanked each member of her amazing team, especially the Zoom Ops Team and our Interpreter, for not just doing what was asked, but far exceeding expectations. **Please see attached report.**

Accessibilities Report – Karen B., Coordinator: Karen began her report by highlighting the display that she brought with her that are the result of working with 2 dedicated ladies from D31 and D32 who were trying to establish an Accessibilities Committee to meet the needs of the fellowship in their district. Fortunately, they were ultimately successful. She informed us that she has zoom meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in participating should contact her at access@aanorthcarolina.org. She also told us that she has surveys for any DCM who may not have an Accessibilities committee in their district. She currently has a hard copy available, but she is also working on a computer-based copy. In addition to the surveys, she is working on consolidating all the resources for an Accessibilities Committee and making them available on the Area 51 website. She concluded by indicating she is available to do a workshop for any district or homegroup. **No report available.**

Budget and Finance Report – Paul M., Budget and Finance Subcommittee Chair: Paul began his report by indicating that his committee had worked closely with Stevie D. to review the Area 51 2022 budget in order to be ready for the Fall Assembly. He said they had worked on the wording for the GSR Assistance Fund Agenda Item to streamline the language. He indicated they have put forth an Agenda Item to make the line item for the Zoom Account a permanent line item because they believe it has shown itself a worthwhile expense for communication. Paul said they reviewed the process and the timeline for any Surplus Fund suggestions, and he wanted to emphasize that the Surplus Fund was \$6,249 and is separate from the \$11,725 contribution received from the AA Women's International Conference. The deadline to submit suggestions for the Surplus Funds is October 31, 2021. He said suggestions for the \$11,725 contribution can be made utilizing the same process as the Surplus Funds but without the October deadline. He reminded us that Denise, our Area Chair, has shared a document that outlines this process and to please share this with your GSRs so everyone will have an opportunity to contribute suggestions how the Area decides to spend the surplus money. Furthermore, it is not his committee's responsibility to suggest how the funds are spent, but to help generate ideas. To that end, he included 2 pages of past advisory actions on how surplus funds were previously spent. He concluded his report by saying they have also reviewed emails from Growth & Maintenance regarding the asset inventory list. They will continue to review the document and how best to move forward. He thanked all members of the Budget & Finance Committee for their hard work. **Please see attached report.**

AGENDA ITEM #3

That Area 51 adopt the GSR Unity Fund as a permanent budgeted item to allow GSRs with financial difficulty to participate in Area assemblies. The Unity Fund will continue to support 4 rooms at each Assembly covering an annual maximum of 8 room nights.

Background Information: The GSR Unity Fund was established for a 2 year trial basis in November 2018 and was utilized to its maximum potential. This motion will make this a permanent budget item.

Budgetary Impact: Based on the 2022 assemblies the budgetary impact is up to \$1174 (4 room nights at the Charlotte University Place for the Spring and 4 room nights at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills for the Fall) with an additional one time prudent reserve increase of \$587.

Denise M., Chair: This item comes moved and seconded from the Budget and Finance subcommittee. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, you appear ready to vote.

Motion Passes Without Opposition.

AGENDA ITEM #4

That Area 51 utilize the Zoom Account on a permanent basis. The Area Chair or designee will determine assignment and use of the Account.

Background Information: The Zoom account was purchased in March of 2020 in response to the pandemic. The account has been used to conduct Area 51 business to include assemblies, preconference's, committee and subcommittee meetings, and workshops. It has proven to be a viable tool to facilitate more involvement, efficiency, and productivity for the area.

Budgetary Impact: The financial impact would be an annual cost of \$1,140, based upon current rates. The impact to the prudent reserve will be \$570.

Denise M., Chair: This item comes moved and seconded from the Budget and Finance subcommittee. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, you appear ready to vote.

Motion Passes with Substantial Unanimity but with 1 Objection.

Denise M., Chair: Would the minority like to speak? (minority opinion did not wish to speak)

AGENDA ITEM # 5

Motion: To approve the proposed Area 51 2022 Budget.

Background Information: The proposed 2022 budget comes moved and seconded from the Area 51 Budget and Finance Subcommittee. Copies of the proposed 2022 budget have been made available.

Denise M., Chair: The Budget and Finance subcommittee has put together 2 budgets; on one side it has where neither of the 2 prior agenda items have passed and on the other side it has where both prior motions have passed. We will be looking at this side. Is there any discussion?

Discussion:

Catherine W., DCM, D 18: Um, question for the proposed budget. Is this assuming that we are going to be meeting in-person for every assembly and committee?

Denise M., Chair: Yes.

Keith M., Archivist: Maybe I am the only one with this question, but budgetary impact for these things has one number and the prudent reserve increase has another number. Can you explain the difference in that to me please? Why it says annual \$1174 for the GSR Unity Fund but the prudent reserve has an increase of only \$587?

Stevie D., Treasurer: What should be on the proposed budget is \$1174 and \$587, not \$1140, \$570. Under the proposed budget under the GSR it says \$1140, it should not, it should be \$1174....

Keith M., Archivist: I'm sorry. Let me clarify my question. I don't understand why it says an annual budget of one dollar amount and the prudent reserve is another dollar amount?

Stevie D., Treasurer: Its always half. Anything we do we take 50% and put it in the money market account. Is that what you were asking? That is consistent, but I do see that there is an error here since you have brought this up. And I will adjust this accordingly. Instead of saying the \$1140 for the GSR, it will actually say what is on the thing \$1174 and the amount will be \$587. It doesn't really matter because these are guestimates; we don't know exactly what the exact costs are going to be but we have to go through a process to come up with these figures and once we do these are the figures for what we want to work with for the year. Thank you.

Denise M., Chair: So, everybody has taken out their pencils and made the adjustments that Stevie was talking about. We don't need to print this off again. Ok, so there is another person at the mic.

Craig H., Alt DCM, D. 34: Just as a curiosity, are there any reason why the GSR Unity Fund and the DCM Unity Fund are different numbers? The DCM Unity Fund id \$1140 as well, is there a reason this is different, assuming the room night is the same cost shouldn't they be the same number? (inaudible response in background) Well they were both 1140, but I am thinking they should both be 1174. (inaudible response in background) But they should both be the same? Ok.

Tony S., Alt DCM, D. 43: Now if you are making these changes over in your expenses, you also want to add that to your budget so it will 0 out. Just so you will be aware of that. (inaudible response in background)

Stevie D., Treasurer: (inaudible...) It is all going to be the same no matter what we do in these hypothetical possibilities; it will equal out to exactly the same; there will be an addition of \$34 in each to make it \$1174 in both. With \$34 plus \$34, I will add \$68 down in the cost, \$68 in contributions so that it will all match out by \$68 more than what it shows on both ends.

Catherine W., DCM D. 18: How does this budget compare to previous years? Because it talks about (gets interrupted)

Stevie D., Treasurer: It is \$14,000 over last year.

Catherine W., DCM, D. 18: Pardon?

Stevie D., Treasurer: Last year was \$109,000 and this year is because we are going to a lot more travel for the officers this year. I did a 10% increase is what I did.

Catherine W., DCM, D 18: Ok so this is about 10% more than for 2021. Thank you.

Denise M., Chair: Alright so anymore discussion? We've all corrected the budget, and are we all okay with going ahead and ok?

Rainer L., Delegate: I got to thinking about this when Craig was at the microphone. So, the DCM Unity Fund is for 2 DCMs, that would be one night at a stand-alone committee and 2 nights at a committee/assembly or 12 room nights in the course of a year but the GSR Unity Fund would be 8 so there's no way those figures should be the same amounts if one is 12 nights and one is 8 nights. (inaudible responses in background)

Stevie D., Treasurer: (comes to the microphone) I am just telling you that my job is just taking what they give me and I put it in. This is the figure we had for the DCM for the previous year was \$1140 so I kept that the same and then they came up with the \$1174, for the uh, based on 4 room nights. I don't know the history of the DCM thing of how it came up to what it is, I would have to go back and look at what the Budget and Finance Committee and what everyone passed 4 years ago and find that information out and bring it back to you. I understand what you are saying now.

Denise M., Chair: Alright, is there any more discussion? So, the motion is to approve the Area 2022 Proposed Budget. All in favor of approving the 2022 budget with the changes we have been discussing.

Motion Passes with Substantial Unanimity but with 1 Objection.

Denise M., Chair: Would the minority wish to speak?

Kevin K., DCM, D. 32: We just threw out a bunch of numbers with a bunch of changes; it's probably easy for him to change it, reprint if and then for us to say "yes" – That's why I voted "no."

Denise M., Chair: We will have an updated budget before the Fall Assembly with all of the corrections that were mentioned here. At this point I would like to go back now with a corrected 2nd quarter statement.

Stevie D., Treasurer: I wanted you to know that I had a lovely gentleman in the back who is an auditor, he went through the process with me and what I am going to do, is its updated, its corrected, I now have a process that makes sense to me that I understand, and we have added a line item at the bottom of the contributions that I gave you which covers the contribution of the Women's International Conference of \$11,725 and the Venmo/ which was \$2410.21 so it's going to match and the interest will match. I am going to print out two new copies and then everyone will be very happy. I did a lot of learning today. Thank you.

Literature Report – Pat. B., Literature Coordinator: Pat started his report by informing us that with the State Convention being virtual, this committee meeting was his first in-person event, and he was ready to start selling. He did, however, call our attention to some specific items because they are presently out of stock through AAWS and of which he only has a limited supply available. Currently he has 2 Public Information kits, 1 Group Handbook, and 6 Corrections kits. Also, he only has 9 of the small Service Manuals and 15 of the 8.5X11 size. He indicated that he has a good supply of most other literature items and that he brought 20 copies of a new book called *A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous*. Pat indicated that a writing workshop that he had planned for this summer had been postponed, but that he was attending a workshop in Sanford on October 16th. He closed by saying he is available for and would love to participant in other workshops/events and that he can be reached at literature@aanorthcarolina.org. Please see attached report.

Grapevine Report – Brooks D., Grapevine Coordinator: Brooks began her report by informing the committee that there had been a historical change to the AA Preamble allowing for our fellowship to be more inclusive and gender neutral. The July edition of AA's International Journal was the first printing that included the newly revised AA Preamble, which starts out "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people...." She also informed us of another milestone for the Grapevine in that we now have a presence on Instagram. She asked us to 'follow' The Grapevine and each day you will get to read the Grapevine daily quote. Brooks spoke of her gratitude of being able to participate in the "Grapestompers" event held by the Raleigh Intergroup in June. In July she was invited to an event in Southern Pines and had over \$320.00 in sales. She has an event in September for District 71 and then two more in October in the Raleigh area. Brooks ended her report by thanking everyone for letting her be of service.
Please see attached report.

Denise M., Chair: Keith since we are ahead of schedule and you never know what is going to take a long time to discuss, I would like to jump forward to Agenda Item 7 and then come back to the Archivist Report.

Agenda Item #7

That the Alternate Convention Chair become a member of the Committee with a voice, but no vote, unless the Convention Chair is absent.

Background Information: There have been occasions in the past when an emergency has arisen for the Convention Chair that prevented the individual from serving. In such cases, the Alternate Convention Chair assumes all responsibilities of the Convention Chair. These responsibilities include in part planning, organizing, and conducting the annual N.C. State Convention under the general guidance and as a member of the Area 51 General Service Committee. In this event, it would benefit the Area if the Alternate Chair has the experience of being on the Area Committee. The funding for the Alt Chair to attend meetings would either be paid for by the Alt Chair or the Convention Committee.

Budgetary Impact: None (see background)

Denise M., Chair: This motion comes from the State Convention Chair, is there a second?

Ken M., DCM, D. 45: I second that motion.

Denise M., Chair: Thank you. Is there any discussion?

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: I appreciate the thought of this motion. I am concerned that we are setting a precedent; we are asking the Alt. Chair to be a member of this Committee and between the lines anyway, that means that they come to the Committee meeting. I don't understand why you would have someone who is a member of the Committee and then say but we don't care whether you come, but if you do come you have to pay your own way or the Convention's got to pay it, which is not what the Convention fund is supposed to be paying. If we are going to value the Alt. Chair, or the Conventions Alt Chair's participation, we need to treat that person just as we do all of our other officers and pay the expense. That's why we pay the expense for people, we want them to come to our meeting and as part of their job they are supposed to come to the meeting. And so, if we are (and I don't have a vote), this is how I've always heard who we pay the expenses for. And this is to me a dangerous precedent to set. Thank you.

Catherine W., DCM, D.18: I agree with what was just shared. Can someone please tell me currently, the Convention Chair's expenses, the expenses for that person to attend Committee meetings, where does that come from? (Chair answers in background: The Area budget) The Area budget, so that's approximately? Is it in the proposed budget? (inaudible voices in background) Ok, so that's \$1710. So, the proposal would be that the Alt. (Convention) Chair would attend all Committee meetings that the Chair attends; not just the ones that the Chair cannot attend. Is that correct?

Denise M., Chair: Yes.

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: So, the sense of this motion is that we want the Alt. Convention Chair to feel like, this is weird, (laughs) to feel like they are included in the Committee; we value their input and there's been opportunities in the past where the Convention Chair had to step aside, and the Alt. Convention Chair stepped in and we want them to be up to date. Think of it similarly as your Alt DCM is here today, right? Are they paying their way? The district is paying for them, so think of it kind of like that.

Elizabeth P., Convention Chair: Um, I just want to speak to this because a lot of people aren't familiar with the Alt. Convention Chairs (responsibilities), up until, well currently, the Alt. Convention Chair can not come to Committee meetings unless we give them special permission at each Committee meeting. In the past few years, the Alt Convention Chair could come because they were past DCMs and past DCMs can come, I think, for 2 years beyond the time they stand. Is that right? (voice in background: 2 terms) 2 terms past the time that they stood so the past few have been past DCMs so they were able to come. Um, but a lot of people on the Convention Committee are chosen because of their special skill set and have not necessarily gone through General Service before, have not come to a Committee meeting so they really don't understand what goes on, what the processes are or how the votes go or even what the purpose of the committee is. So, um, I'm not speaking to the financial impact, but I just wanted people to be aware that we have had in the past where the Convention Chairperson had to step out and we were fortunate enough that the person who stepped in had been a former Chair of the Committee, well of the Area. So, I did want to speak to why it is important because we need for them to know what to do once they get here. Thank you.

Adrian C., DCM, D. 23: Um, I would offer an amendment, um but it's in the background information where there's an issue. But like what has been previously stated, the thing that stuck out to me here is that it's with the direction that it come out of the Convention Funds and if no other Committee is paying separately out of their budget, there's no reason that the Convention should be paying separately out of theirs. Thanks.

Lindsey H., DCM, D. 43: I just had a quick question because it says (expenses would) either be paid for by Alt. Chair or by the Convention Committee, so does that mean that the Alt. Chair could use their own personal finances to attend these?

Denise M., Chair: I believe that was the intent of that, yes.

Lindsey H., DCM, D43: That part just makes me nervous because it gives the impression that you can't hold this service position if you don't have excess money. So, I know as a GSR, I came on scholarship for 2 years because my group couldn't afford it and neither could I. So, um, I would just hate that somebody would think they couldn't serve.

Marty M., PI Coordinator: I have a question, I guess a point of order type thing: because that is in the background information, if we wanted to have the Area pay for it, how would we do that, cause it's not in the main motion?

Denise M., Chair: So, I believe, consulting with my backup singers (laughter) um, I think you could amend the motion and the background would be adjusted before it is brought forward to the Assembly.

Kenneth C., Past Delegate, Panel 67: I guess because Past Delegates are invited to come here on our own dime are a little more sensitive, um, but I just wanted to say that if we follow the analogy of what happens with DCMs and Alt. DCMs, districts are responsible for paying for the DCM and the same funding source is also expected to pay for the Alternate. I think for all of our, um, officers, the Area pays for them to be here because the expectation is for them to here so by creating this expectation, I also am concerned, um, that we are creating an expectation for people to show up and pay their own way or to have to take money from the State Convention which is not what that money's intent is to be used for. Thanks.

Greg K., Registrar: I'm going to try not to echo what I've heard; several people have more or less said what I wanted to say. How would the Convention Committee decide if it was up to the Alt Chair or the Convention Committee (to pay the expenses)?

Elizabeth P., Convention Chair: That would probably be up to each Convention Committee to decide that and if I wanted, if I need to, it feels like the sense of the meeting is they would like to see this (part of the motion) changed, would I need to make the amendment, or would it need to come from somebody else in the Committee?

Denise M., Chair: You are trying my Chair knowledge. I believe if it came from you, because you brought the original motion, it would be a friendly amendment and we would not necessarily need to vote on it; you could amend it and then we could start debating that.

Elizabeth P., Convention Chair: I don't mind making the amendment. For me it was not about the money; it was more about allowing the Alt Convention Chair here and be an active part of the Committee, so I am more than happy to make a friendly amendment that it (the expense) would become a part of the Area budget.

Denise M., Chair: So, we will change it (the motion) to read **That the Alternate Convention Chair become a member of the Committee with a voice, but no vote, unless the Convention Chair is absent. Travel expenses will come from the Area Budget to match the Convention Chair's expenses.** It will be a budgetary item and then that will of course make the budgetary item match the Convention Chairs' expenses. Ok this is the sentence I have scribbled down: "Travel expenses will come from the Area Budget to match the Convention Chair's expenses." Is everybody alright with that? The floor is now open for discussion on this new amended motion.

Denise M., Chair: You appear ready to vote. (Re-read the motion.) All in favor? All opposed?

The Motion Passes without Opposition.

Archives Report – Keith M., Archivist: Keith began his report by letting us know that he has been very involved with the Growth and Maintenance Committee and that the Chair, Dale L, will provide full details when she gives her report later. The Archives Committee continues to work on digitizing the items in the repository. He indicated that this project would not be completed until all items, which includes audio tapes, paper records and films, are digitized and made available for Area 51 members to utilize as an online resource. Keith informed us that zoom has provided a great opportunity for conducting oral histories of Area 51 members. He asked us to contact him with names of people who have 35 years or more of sobriety and most of their sobriety occurred in NC at archivist@aanorthcarolina.org. He also asked us to contact him by email if your district or home group would like a workshop done on the history of AA in NC or the history of your home group, your hometown or district. He provided an example of what he recently did for a request that involved early NC history and the Fayetteville area in the 1940's that he would love to do for you should you ask. Keith concluded by expressing gratitude for all the support he has received from his committee and the opportunity to serve Area 51.

Please see attached Report.

Denise M., Chair: Next, we will break for subcommittee and Workgroup sessions as well as dinner. This evening we will be selecting a Theme for our Fall Assembly and setting up workshops. DCMs, consider signing up to facilitate the workshops. This is an opportunity to encourage future leaders into General Service. Coordinators, you will have an opportunity to hold workshops during the Fall Assembly, so think about this during the break as we will plan the workshops tonight. I am going to have Clayborne come do the "CHARGE" for the workshops.

Clayborne T., Alternate Chair: The airwalls will be put in place during our break, dividing this into three rooms. Site Investigation will meet in Belk; Website will meet in Mint; Growth and Maintenance will meet in Duke. Just down the hall, Theme and Workshop Workgroup will meet in Dilworth and Budget and Finance will meet in Midwood. Clayborne made sure everyone understood the schedule so they could find their district subcommittee assignment. He informed everyone that Alternate DCMs will attend the same subcommittee or work group as their DCM. He reminded everyone to pick up all papers and notes when they leave and to be back promptly in this room at 8:15pm.

The meeting adjourned for dinner with the Serenity Prayer.

EVENING BUSINESS SESSION

Call to Order – Denise called the evening business session to order opening with the Serenity Prayer.

Denise M., Chair: So, I have checked with Stevie, he has approved my intention to circle back to the 2nd quarter financial statements, so you should all have a copy of them; he was handing them out earlier. Does anyone have any questions for Stevie with the revised 2nd quarter financial statement? Do I have a motion that the 2nd quarter financial statement be approved?

George S., DCM, D, 35: I make a motion to approve Stevie's last document (laughter).

Kavaruss C., Webmaster: I second

2nd Quarter Financial Statement Passed Without Opposition.

Denise M., Chair: Lindsey, can you come give the Site Investigation Subcommittee Report?

Site Investigation Report: Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: Lindsey began her report by indicating that her committee had been working hard to make selections for Area 51 events for the years 2023-2025. She said the committee had sent out 64 requests but only received back 5 bids. However, they were pleased with 4 out of the 5 bids. She went on to inform the Committee that there were several factors that must be considered when making hotel choice decision which includes room rates, coffee prices, and av equipment rentals. She indicated that an important factor in the decision was room block requirements; some bids had no room block requirements while others had up to 90% room block. She concluded her report by saying her committee weighed all these factors and they were important considerations in making the top choices in the motion that her committee is presenting today.

Please see attached report.

Denise M., Chair: Thank you, Lindsey. That brings us to agenda item 6.

AGENDA ITEM # 6

That the 2023 Summer Committee Meeting be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center.

That the 2023 Fall Committee/Assembly be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

That the 2024 Spring Committee/Assembly be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

That the 2024 State Convention be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

That the 2024 Summer Committee Meeting be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center.

That the 2024 Fall Committee/Election Assembly be held at Lake Junaluska.

That the 2025 Spring Committee/Assembly be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

That the 2025 State Convention be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

Per 2021 Spring Advisory Action, Winter Committee Meeting 2024 and Winter Committee Meeting 2025 will be selected at a later date.

Background Information: The Site Investigation Subcommittee is charged with finding, evaluating, and recommending sites to hold all Area 51 events for the two-year period of August 2023 to July 2025. These events are four Area Committee Meetings, four Area Assembly and Committee Meetings and 2024 and 2025 North Carolina State Conventions.

To select a site, the subcommittee evaluated the most competitive bids submitted from around the State factoring in reasonable room rates, the cost and size of meeting rooms, coffee costs, and other costs such as cost of parking. Also considered were hotel amenities, smoking policies, and nearby affordable restaurants.

In keeping with the challenge from the membership, our goal was to balance the accessibility of a site with choosing locations from all parts of the state.

The Site Investigation Subcommittee started the selection process in mid-2019 by identifying and sending Requests For Proposals to 64 locations across North Carolina. Phone calls and emails followed to insure replies. The sites included non-traditional venues, such as resorts and retreat centers, following the direction of the membership. Of the 64 sites, 5 returned bids.

The Subcommittee examined all bids with a detailed cost analysis and further negotiation with each hotel. We placed the information into the same comparative analysis format as was developed by the previous site investigations sub-committees. This listed any specific dates that a site provided where possible, in order to provide the most detailed report to the membership. We decided there were no viable options for the Winter Committee Meeting 2024 and Winter Committee Meeting 2025. Those sites will be selected at a later date.

Denise M., Chair: This motion comes moved and seconded from the Site Investigation subcommittee. Is there any discussion?

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: So, I am going to make a friendly amendment to the Site Investigation motion. I'm going to add "That the 2024 Winter Committee Meeting be held at the Hilton Charlotte Airport" and then anywhere Winter Committee 2024 is listed in the background information will be crossed out because we have already made that decision and we will not need to do so by next the Fall Assembly.

Denise M., Chair: So, I have inserted between the 2023 Fall Committee/Assembly and the 2024 Spring Committee/Assembly a 2024 Winter Committee meeting at the Hilton Charlotte Airport. And we will all make the adjustments throughout the background information before it is forwarded to the Assembly. I am crossing out the Winter Committee Meeting 2024 in the last sentence of that motion. Is there any discussion?

Roger A., DCM, D.11: Um, I appreciate, being from western NC all the effort being made to bring some of these meetings to western NC, but I notice that there is nothing east of Raleigh; now, is that just because a lot of the requests for bids didn't come from there? I was just wondering if there was an answer.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: I also appreciate the effort to move it around the state. But can you provide a little more background information on the Blowing Rock Conference Center? For instance, is there a hotel that is a part of that or is it just a _

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: We did not get any bids from the eastern part of the state to answer that question. At the Blowing Rock Conference Center, we would stay on site; so, there are 2 different buildings and the rooms are right there and then we walk down to the conference center; everybody has their meals together there, the food is provided on site, but you can obviously leave as well, but the ability for camaraderie and joining together for a meal as well as our meetings would be really awesome there. And it was really pretty. I have a slide show too if anybody wants to see it later. (inaudible question) It's near Boone.

Adrian C., DCM, D. 23: I was wondering for the 2024 Fall Committee/Election Assembly that is proposed to be at Lake Junaluska, what was the cost savings of Lake Junaluska that justifies holding it that extreme west a 2nd time without it ever moving east, particularly for an election assembly where attendance is perhaps extra meaningful?

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: So, Fall Assembly we only had 2 bids; its either the Hilton Raleigh North or Lake Junaluska. Lake Junaluska's coffee was actually \$19.95 a gallon as opposed to the Hilton Raleigh's \$30.50 a gallon. Um, meeting space was \$2100, Hilton Raleigh is \$0 with 85% and room rates were relatively the same, so between coffee prices and the meeting prices it was going to come out relatively even and we wanted geographic diversity and to not always just be at the Hilton Raleigh.

Wendy A., Alt DCM, D. 21: So, my question is in regard to Lake Junaluska, and I have been there, um, is there availability for the amount of people that we are anticipating at the Election Assembly? I know it's a small venue and we packed in there like sardines.

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: Yes, it is large enough, plenty large enough We are having our Fall Assembly there, so we will all get to see how large it is.

Denise M., Chair: You appear ready to vote. Are you alright if I summarize this motion, or do you need me to read it again? (loud responses of "summarize") Denise summarized the motion: to approve these sites for the events from August 2023 through July 2025 excluding the 2025 Winter Committee event. All in favor? Any opposed? Would the minority like to speak? Sorry, I should have said before that **The Motion passes with Substantial Unanimity**. And now the minority may speak.

Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator: I think my problem with Lake Junaluska is not that in of itself that its being done during an Election Assembly, um, I think being more centrally located would be a little bit nicer and then to put another one out there. I mean I like it; it is a great place, but I just, we're going to go up there this time for the first time and I'll be interested to see how well attended things are. So, I just have concerns over that.

Denise M., Chair: So now that brings us to agenda item # 8. Before I read the agenda item, I would like to go over some additional background information. At the Spring Assembly, new business was brought forward to consider holding the Fall Assembly held at Lake Junaluska as a hybrid event. I put together a task force to investigate this consisting of: Alternate Chair Clayborne T., Alternate Delegate Julie R., Site Investigation Chair Lindsey H., Site Investigation Alternate Chair Charlotte S., and Zoom Operators Chris G. (here to answer technical questions on this motion), and Troy M. A hybrid event would incur additional costs above an event without the hybrid support and the Committee has the authority to allocate funds for use in the Area. The task force intentionally left the amount allocated for this blank, requiring the Committee to fill in the amount prior to voting on the motion.

AGENDA ITEM # 8

The Committee authorizes the Chair to organize and implement a hybrid 2021 Fall Assembly at Lake Junaluska, not to exceed \$?????. This is not a mandate to the Chair to hold a hybrid event should it prove too costly or technically challenging to provide an equitable virtual/in-person experience.

Background Information: At the Spring Assembly, a GSR brought new business to consider conducting the Fall Assembly as a hybrid meeting. This agenda items covers only the 2021 Fall Assembly.

The Chair already has a lot of discretion to plan our Area Assembly and Committee Meetings. However, the Chair does not have the authority to spend additional funds without the approval of the Committee. This motion is required to allocate, approve, and cap additional funding for a hybrid event.

We have held in person events and virtual events, but not yet a hybrid event. When planning the Assembly, the Chair will balance the equitable access to all parts (the business sessions, workshops, fellowship opportunities, etc.) against the costs associated to support a hybrid experience. This may mean not all aspects of the Assembly will be available to virtual participants.

Should this motion pass, it is not a mandate to the Chair to hold a hybrid event. Should, upon further investigation, it proves to be impossible (perhaps the hotel infrastructure cannot such a heavy load on their internet) or too costly (supporting a hybrid business session exceeds the amount approved in this motion), the 2021 Fall Assembly will be held in person.

The funds allocated in this motion will be used to pay for personnel (Zoom Ops support), equipment, and any other costs that occur to hold a hybrid Assembly. These funds are not intended to cover penalties assessed by the hotel should we not meet our contractual obligation for our room block

Denise M., Chair: This item comes moved and seconded by the Hybrid Task force. Is there any discussion?

Marty M., PI Coordinator: Are there any estimates that we have as far as an amount that we would have to go to?

Denise M., Chair: I think it would depend on how much we would want to support for a hybrid meeting. Chris, can you give a ballpark of some equipment rentals that might be required?

Chris M., Zoom Ops Support: Yes, honestly it really is going to come down to what degree of what we want to do. But a ballpark figure if I had to guesstimate it, you're looking at anywhere from \$3-5000 per room that you are looking to make available to the people online.

George S., DCM, D35: I was actually most interested in the impact on the room block in potential penalties. It's a well written background but I don't, it seems as if you have set that potential cost aside and I am unsure how you calculate a whole budget if you can't factor in the additional penalties of not making the room block. Do we not know different levels of additional costs would be incurred if we were, say at 50% of our room block or 25%?

Denise M., Chair: We could do that calculation. It is based on the contracted amount for a certain number of rooms; if we don't meet that, we would just basically buy the rooms anyway, um, so it just depends on how close we come to that target.

Sue H., DCM, D.34: What I am confused by is it says this Committee authorizes the Chair to organize and implement not to exceed a blank amount, but we are saying the funds allocated in this motion will be used to pay for personnel, but we don't know how many funds there are. My concern, we've had some district meetings that have been hybrid and they frankly sucked. Um, it was two classes of citizens: it was the people in the room who had a good experience, I think we all see that here, and if there are hybrid people, you'll have to have somebody who is figuring out who's in line when, making sure they can hear everything. Um, I'm really concerned this could be a disaster if we try to do it. So, I think if we try to do it right, it's going to be super expensive. That's my concern.

Roger A., DCM, D.11: At this stage of the game, this epidemic is showing as many people that is in the hospital as at the highest point that ever was. To be honest with you, I'm surprised we're even here at this meeting now. I mean as much as I'm loving it and seeing everybody, we've got people with masks on, some without, you know I'm not sure of my safety here. You know, if a hybrid were offered would I go to it, probably, but what I would rather see is you cancel Lake Junaluska. We go to full zoom, and we get back to handling business in a safe way. I know that's not the agenda item, but I think it is the smart thing to do. Thank you.

Adrian C., DCM, D.23: Somewhat similar to what was just said, um, we're sitting here today looking at the Covid numbers getting worse; we're in a city, rather a county, that has a strict mask mandate, and we can't get DCMs to all 100% wear a mask. There's going to be a lot of people who chose not to go to Lake Junaluska because they don't feel safe. We have a responsibility to try to make our Assemblies as open to everyone as possible and so I would say that a hybrid for \$10,000 or less is appropriate because we need to give everyone the chance to participate if we are holding the event. Either that or we can go all zoom and we know how that works, but we can't do it for 5 grand so we need to make sure there is actually funds allocated for it.

Gail P., DCM, D.93: Um, we used to have about 5 or 6 GSRs that we were able to get to the live events and when we went fully virtual, we got less than half of those. So, when I discussed this in my district, everybody was yea, yea, go hybrid, it's a long drive; it's a 9 hour drive for us. And then when I asked them, ok, if we are going to invest this money, time and people, who's going to commit to actually be there and none of them would commit. So, we are seeing less participation on virtual, and it seems like a lot of effort and I'm not sure we'll have the return, at least from my district. Thanks.

Catherine W., DCM, D.18: Um, question for the zoom ops people, so if it's \$3-5,000 a room, how many rooms are we going to need? I don't quite understand technically what we would need. Does that mean like if we are doing workshops, we would have to have a room for each of those workshops?

Denise M., Chair: So typically, we have at an Assembly we have a business session like this, that's one room; then we would have breakout rooms for workshops, each of those would be an additional room. We could have all of the workshops available, some of the workshops available, none of the workshops available, so the cost would be a large part of the decision-making in that in the budget. Although Chris was giving me signals that I may not have answered that completely accurate. Would you like to amend my response? Ok.

Rainer L., Delegate: Wanting to bring up a couple of points. One is based on Chris's general forecast that it would be about \$3-5,000 per room. I think its important to note the participation that we've had at our virtual workshops when we've done virtual Assemblies, which at least in an unofficial observation, it seems to be well below the number of the Assembly business session attendees and so I would try to make an argument or suggest that perhaps we should simply try to hybridize the business sessions: not to worry about fellowship opportunities at the workshops. There is some cost mitigation as well as the fact that after a full day's business session people do not seem to want to participate in a virtual workshop. Um, also with credit to Julie, as contracting Area Chair at the time, we have an 80% room block commitment with Lake Junaluska in order to avoid any attrition costs; um, which is based on a room block of roughly 250 nights, um a little hard to do that because it said \$28,700 and so I'm sort of forecasting based on roughly \$120.00 a room night but our contract is written in a way that anything below 80% would simply lead to a buy back up to the point of 80%. Um, so if we filled 70% of our room block then we would need to buy 50 room nights at about \$120.000 a night so \$6000 is our attrition fee.

Stanley H., Treatment Coordinator: I like what Rainer just said. I was sitting over there thinking about a scaled down version of a hybrid. I would like to share my experience with an online and me hosting a workshop. There was 11 people, and I don't know what number I was expecting, but I sure wasn't expecting 11, so I would rule out workshops and um, I'd be for a business session only and a somewhat scaled down hybrid. We really don't have to go really high tech so if you want to consider that, thanks.

Angie A., Alt DCM, D.80: Um, one of the main meetings that we have in District 80 is a hybrid meeting and it is very well attended, both in person and online. And if we limit this to just a business discussion only and don't do the workshops, you are going to be

talking into one of these anyway and one of the biggest problems with hybrid meetings is having proper mics in the room in the on-location room for the people online to be able to hear. Um, we've had great success with our hybrid meetings and often we have more people online than we do in the meeting room which is still pretty far away for a lot of folks in our district. Thanks.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: First of all, my home group is a parallel meeting; we have in person and zoom and we have a hybrid business meeting, and, um, with all our best attempts at making it equal, it's not. It's just not the same experience online as it is in person. And I don't believe this will be either. So, I really think we ought, I don't know what our time deadline is to cancel, but I think to me it should be one or the other: either virtual or in person. And hybrid creates two classes of servants; I think Sue was correct in that and I will point to the experience of our General Service Board which has had to not only deal with everybody meeting in person, but also the Canadian Trustees who are not allowed to come to the United States and so they were going to be online if we had a General Service Board meeting and because of the fact that they would be treated, um, they would not be treated equally to the people who were there in person inevitable the hybrid method has not followed yet. And, I think we ought to really consider whether to say you can either be online, on zoom is really the same experience for our trusted servants as it is for the ones who are there in person. That's all. Thanks.

Guadalupe A., Alt DCM, D.30: (Speaking in Spanish and translated by Rick L.) She said that for the Area it would be better to be in person; that we should remember and return back to the way that it used to be in person because a lot of the times or often times people are connected but not really listening to some of the meeting. So, if we continue to do the meetings in person then its going to get better because we are actually like improving our fellowship being in person with each other. So, another benefit of having an in person, even though like the cost might be a little bit more, but we have the benefit of going to different parts of the state and improving our fellowship. That's it. Thank you.

Greg K., Registrar: So just to make sure I'm clear, so what we are sort a deciding is if we want to give you the authority to investigate doing a hybrid meeting and then sort of in the same motion how much to give you. Is that right?

Denise M., Chair: Yes, to investigate having a hybrid meeting and giving me a budget to do so but not requiring a hybrid meeting. It could still be an in person, but if the numbers go bad...

Greg K., Registrar: So, it is sort of a two-part motion in one if I am understanding correctly. Do we want to give you any money and then how much money to we want to give you would be after that, is that right? And um, just one more question. I've got more questions than comments. Um, could, I, I, in my opinion it should be one or the other. I find myself agreeing with Newton, I'm not used to that (laughter) but, um, could we even cancel the hotel? Is that even an option?

Denise M., Chair: I believe that is being researched at the back table back there.

Greg K., Registrar: Ok, that 's all I have for now.

George S., DCM, D.35: One last question about, um, the room block. At this point do we know what percentage of the potential group of people that would show, that are already preregistered? Do we have any idea? Are we 50% right now or higher?

Denise M., Chair: I did not ask for an updated room list prior to this event, um, honestly it didn't occur to me. I was so busy planning this event; that would have been a really good thing to do but it never occurred to me.

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: I will say that the Terrace Hotel is sold out for Saturday night. I tried to make my reservation earlier today so I don't know what that means for the room block, but it surely means something good. Um, I was just going to say what I do like about this motion, and we've been talking about it on that task force, my opinion of hybrid has changed over the last month. I really am one of those people, I do love the in-person meeting, I also don't think it is going to be the same experience for both sides of it, but with the numbers going up like they are, we have no idea what November holds for us. What I like about this motion is giving our Chair the discretion to see if we can even cancel, and if we can't is hybrid a better option, just trying to figure out and this is a motion for a one time event. So not going forward are we going to consider hybrid, but for Fall Assembly this year, being able to have that discretion and to chose between a hybrid or all in person and being able to monitor, we all know the world is different week by week right now and being able to monitor that and keep working through that. It might not be the same experience, but it may be the safest option to make to allow people to participate but feel comfortable at the same time.

Gail P., DCM, D.93: With all respect to Lindsey who is my chairperson, if we go hybrid in one event, I don't see us able to shut it off. I think the demand will be there to continue it and so I don't, I think it sets a precedent. I don't think it will be a one-time thing.

Denise M., Chair: I am reluctant to shut the discussion down while there's research going on, but I believe you guys would like to know if the contract can be cancelled before we vote on this motion. Is that true? (general affirmative consensus in the background) So, would everyone like to take a short break right now while they continue reading the fine print on the contract?

Short Break

Denise M., Chair: So, we have been crunching numbers and I believe we are ready to throw some numbers out there so we can make an informed decision on this motion.

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: I am the person who negotiated and signed this contract with Lake Junaluska. So, 6 months prior to the arrival date, our cancellation clause is 90% of the total per person meal package rate multiplied by the expected guest count plus 90%of the cumulative room nights block multiplies by the group rate. For the meal plan the 90% comes up to \$12,240; for the Terrace Hotel, 90% is \$24,966, for the Lambeth Inn, 90% is \$7371 for a total cancellation cost of \$44,577.

Denise M., Chair: Julie, you said something about 6 months prior...

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: We are in the block of 6 months prior for our arrival date. If we had done it earlier, it would be 80% but the numbers I just gave you is as bad as it gets financially. Except we have already put down a \$500.00 deposit and we would lose that but that doesn't sound like much compared to \$44,000. That's where we are at, unless of course the state does shut down, we do have a forced (could not make out term) clause in the contract which is something outside the hotel's control or our control and that would get us out of the contract. That's how we got out of the contracts for the Hilton last year.

Denise M., Chair: So, Chris and I were up here crunching some numbers too. Chris, can you come here and talk about the personnel costs of supporting a hybrid meeting?

Chris M., Zoom Oops Support: So, I just wanted to clarify that when I talked about the \$3-5000 cost, that was in equipment only cost of approximate for 1 room. What she is talking about the cost for the support, we don't actually charge you anything. So, it's

to pay for the travel, the hotel, for the food and that's it. In terms of us getting down there, we would need to be there a day early in order to get everything set up and to make sure everything is working. Then we also had discussed doing an exploratory visit ahead of schedule to validate that it will work at all. There are a lot of unknowns about the venue in terms of what their internet is and what its capabilities are and so this would give us the opportunity to get there, work with them, test their equipment and verify that it will in fact support what we are trying to do. The idea being that if it doesn't, then we are done.

Keith M., Archivist: The \$3-5,000 that Chris just quoted is that us buying all the equipment that we would have to have to do the hybrid meeting with or is that us renting that equipment from Lake Junaluska?

Chris M., Zoom Oops Support: The list of equipment that Lake Junaluska has available for us really has nothing to do with the equipment that we are talking about. In terms of renting the equipment and I looked at options of leasing or purchasing or renting per month it doesn't really change the cost much so the cost we are talking about would be to purchase it with the idea that it would be portable, and we could take to whatever venue that we go to or it could be resold if needed.

Denise M., Chair: So, um, we're kind of at a point and we don't have a dollar amount in the motion; if we don't want to do it we don't need a budgetary amount but if we are going to attempt to vote yes, we will need a dollar amount to insert into this motion.

Kevin K., DCM, D32: Um, just out of my curiosity if this was virtual, how many people in this room would attend virtually versus going to Lake Junaluska? Hybrid, if it was hybrid would you go virtually or would you go in person? The reason for my question was to just see if it's about 50% and we expect 50% to be there, my concern is that room block number if we do go hybrid.

Wendy A., Alt DCM, D.21: So, I'm just going to through this out there. As we are all opening up our meetings again, I don't know about your groups but a lot of mine are struggling financially; even at the cheapest room rate its \$126.00 a night, so if you have people who are having to travel 8-10 hours, are we able to support that? I know we have the GSR Fund available for them, but I'm just throwing that out there because it is a fact that a lot of our groups are struggling right now and if we have a hybrid option would this be something we consider because we are wanting to still carry the message?

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: If I wanted to throw a number out there would I just make a motion to amend ...I would like to make a motion to amend the agenda item to say not to exceed \$15,000.

Denise M., Chair: So, we have an amendment to the motion, (Denise reread the amended motion) So that would need a second.

Catherine W., DCM, D18: I will second that, but I also have a question.

Denise M., Chair: So the amendment to the motion has been seconded, so the floor is open to discussion.

Catherine W., DCM, D18: Can it only be about the amendment to the motion? ("yes" in background and then laughter)

Denise M., Chair: So any discussion on the amendment? You appear ready to vote. (Denise read the entire amended motion).

Vote:

Yea: 31.

Nay: 11.

Motion to amend Agenda Item 8 passed with Substantial Unanimity.

Denise M., Chair: Would the minority like to speak?

Gail P., DCM, D93: The reason I voted against is I don't think \$15,000 will be enough to do a worthwhile and decent job.

Denise M., Chair: So now we are discussing the amended motion to hold a hybrid event with a cap of \$15,000 for a budget. Is there any discussion?

Catherine W., DCM, D18: So, for just a point of clarification as an agenda item does this Committee have the authority and pass this agenda and authorize you to spend money if we pass this and everything? All the others are agenda items that will be the schedule for the Fall Assembly, so I just want to make sure we are not shooting ourselves in the foot debating all this when we don't have that authority.

Denise M., Chair: So that is a very good question. Yes, since this motion is about holding the Fall Assembly, it would be a little bit difficult not to be able to act on it. This is a Committee decision only. It is part of our Service Structure to be able to make these kinds of decisions. This agenda item whether it is passes or not will not go forward as an agenda item on the Fall Assembly schedule.

Sue H., DCM, D34: Sitting with this, I am still real concerned. The concern is if you spend \$15,000 to get the equipment and the numbers keep rising and then you offer a hybrid option, a lot of people are going to stay home because they don't feel safe at the hotel and then we are going to get a room block hit and spend \$15,000 - it seems like we are going to be spending a lot of money, where I think we can either do in person, but I prefer we just do zoom based on where we are and not spend the \$15,000. So, I think we are throwing money away.

Charlotte S., DCM, D51: Just so that I'm clear, this agenda item is authorizing our Chair to investigate with that \$15,000 cap because what I am understanding is that um, once they do whatever investigations to see whether we even Lake Junaluska has the capacity to accommodate a hybrid meeting, its still left up to our Chair to determine if we should go that route. Am I correct? Because the way that it says this is not a mandate to the Chair to hold a hybrid event; should it prove to be too costly after investigation we may not have to use \$15,000 if Denise doesn't see that its real necessary. Am I correct? ("Yes" in the background)

George S., DCM, D35: It's been a great conversation. I've been persuaded to oppose this whole project based on the fact that we are at this point unable, without spending \$40,000 to back out and we've known about Lake Junaluska for 2 years and people have been making plans; I think to discuss this at this late stage puts a lot of confusion out among the fellowship. And at this point I think that the cost wise to have as little potential room block hit as possible would all indicate that we leave here saying it's an in-person event as planned.

Kenneth C., Past Delegate, Panel 67: Yeah, I was on the State Convention Committee and even though we ultimately voted unanimously to do it strictly as zoom, I was actually the only person who spoke up in favor at all of doing something hybrid. Um, so I like the idea of just sharing with more people, um, but I think that's for when people are just speaking, you are just trying to share, and it's not when we are trying to harness a group conscious. And I think it's a fundamentally different act when we are trying to get everybody together in one room so we can create something larger than ourselves through our interaction with each other and I feel like that's the reason we have the Conference, and even though it is at huge cost we talk about having an informed but instructed Delegate and have our concepts. And as important as the money is, before people take a vote, and I don't have a vote, I want people to take a couple of steps back and think not just about the money but also the principle of unity and of having a group

conscious that is something that is formed at the event, um, and also remember we are not experts in public health, I believe that everybody who is in here is an expert in Alcoholics Anonymous; the state has people who has advanced degrees in public health who will watch things and if they shut it down, they cancel it then we can do a virtual option, but if that does not happen and I know there is fear that we do not know what is going to happen, but there are outside agencies who will watch that and if we are not shut down we can forward with this and we are now in a position to do so. Thanks.

Greg K., Registrar: So, I think ultimately we trust our Chair will surround herself with good people to make the best decision but I, I, what bothers me about this isn't related to the decision we are making but the process. I just don't think this is informed. I feel like this is a group opinion off the top of our head. No one knew until about ten minutes ago about \$40,000. Most people didn't know about \$15,000 or any other number so there has been no discussion with GSRs to see what they might be thinking, where DCMs could go have those discussions; there's a big concern about losing or throwing away a lot of money. I think the right decision will be made, but I don't think we came into this or that we've been as informed as we could have been.

Stacy D., DCM, D.44: 8 of my GSRs are newbies. In fact, I am the only one out of 20ish groups that have been around a little bit. They've never participated in anything in person. I don't think it is fair to them to all of a sudden tell them this is going to be your first in person event but there's this other distracting thing happening with the hybrid situation going on. I don't feel I am giving them all the tools and ingredients that they need to experience a really great venue and get as much out of it as they possibly could about being a GSR and how General Service works and how our District works and how our Area works by setting them up to have a hybrid experience. Thanks.

Viviana S., DCM, D.92: I have the same problem as the other girl, very short. I agree with Greg. I think we need a little bit more information. Doesn't look to me like it has been researched enough, to take, it's a lot of money. For me, I mean I've been planning to go to Lake Junaluska, I've even been practicing the pronunciation (laughter) So because you know the last time that we went virtual, I wasn't in the meeting, I was there but I wasn't, I was talking to the girls over there (pointing) then on my bed with my laptop, going to the bathroom, eating, I was not into, into like I am right here right now. I love this. I am an alcoholic and I have an alcoholic personality. Nothing comes easy to me, whatever is easy, I'm not going to take it; I like the hard way. That's who I am so I'm going to do whatever it is that we decide. The state may close, and we have to be virtual anyways, but I don't know. It's a lot of money and there's very little information, like Greg says. I agree 100%; we didn't know any numbers until 15 minutes ago. And this is not even the numbers, it's an approximately. At the last Assembly in my area (district) it was only me who did virtual. Thank you.

Ken M., DCM, D.45: Everybody here knows this is a 2 day event. So we come, we establish a quorum, and we don't leave so we'll have the quorum the next day. Same thing with the Assemblies. But with a lot of newbies, GSRs leave by Sunday. So, the name of this game is it's a 2 day event, we do it in person, it's a 2 day event because if people are just coming to, in order to qualify, in order to get enough people to qualify. The only reason we went to zoom is because we had to. Our meetings were shut down without zoom with very few exceptions. But the substantial number of our meetings were shut down unless we went to zoom. (audio difficulties) We can do this if it's a live event and we all know it's a 2 day event. If we give ourselves the option of using zoom, we are shooting ourselves in the foot and we'll lose half of our onsite population and we won't have the numbers and it will cost us \$40,000.

Denise M., Chair: Alright, you all appear ready to vote. (Denise re-reads the Agenda Item.)

Vote:

Yea: 15.

Nay: 30.

Motion Fails Due to Lack of Substantial Unanimity.

Denise M., Chair: Would the minority like to speak? The minority are those who voted in favor of the motion.

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: I am a person who will absolutely attend in person if it was a hybrid; my only concern is we know we paid \$44,000 or roughly around that to cancel and go virtual unless there is a state shut down. And we have no idea what is going to happen with Covid numbers between now and November. We could end up having an in-person meeting and still pay a huge room block penalty because people simply don't feel safe to come and now Denise has no option to allow participation in a hybrid meeting because we didn't give her the flexibility to do her job. That's the only thing that makes me nervous about it is to see us pay a room block penalty and only have 80 people in the room at Lake Junaluska and maybe 150 could have tuned in from home but we didn't give them that option.

Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator: As the Accessibilities Coordinator, I always think about how can we make this accessible? In my way of thinking is this: I asked at one point to have an ASL person here and if one deaf person came it would be well worth it just because we had it. And I'm looking at this as an option. There are people here not tonight, they are home tonight because they did not feel comfortable coming out because no matter what the health people say they are afraid. And for me to allow them to have an option, even if 5 go on there it is still giving them the option, it is making the Assembly accessible for them and I think that is reaching the hand of AA out. Thank you.

Elizabeth P., Convention Chair: For me the vote on this was not about whether or not we should be virtual or not but it was about trusting, trusting our Area Chair would make a good decision and giving her the power to make a decision and that she would be prudent with our finances and with the safety and health of everyone involved. So, for me it was more a matter of giving the Area Chair some freedom to act with her best thoughts.

Denise had the 7th Tradition basked passed in accordance with past advisory action.

Denise asked permission to deviate from the schedule; she asked to wait for the sharing session until Sunday morning and to continue with the Area business that needed to be concluded before we adjourn for the evening. Consensus was to postpone "sharing session" until tomorrow.

Theme and Workshop Group - Mat C., Theme & Workshop Chair: The theme for the 2021 Fall Assembly is “AA’s Future: It Begins With Us.” There will be 4 English-speaking workshops and 2 Spanish-speaking workshops. The English-speaking workshops are as follows: 1. “How to Be an Effective GSR,” 2. “Safety Within Our Meetings,” 3. “Upside Down Triangle: Our Voices Matter” and 4. “Back to Basics.:1,2,3.” The 2 Spanish-speaking workshops are 1. “How to Be an Effective GSR” and 2. “Safety Within Our Meetings.” **No report available.**

Approval of Assembly Theme & Workshop Topics – Denise M., Chair:

Motion: The theme for the Fall 2021 Assemble will be “AA’s Future - It begins with us”

Discussion: None

Vote: The Motion Passed Without Opposition.

Motion: The workshops, in accordance with this theme, will be: 1) How to be an effective GSR; 2) Safety within our meetings; 3) Upside down Triangle - our voices matter; and 4) Back to Basics...1,2,3.

Discussion: Denise repeated the workshops.

Vote: The Motion Passes without Opposition.

The workshops will not be assigned by badges.

Motion: The two Spanish-speaking workshops will be 1) How to be an effective GSR and 2) Safety within our meetings.

Discussion: None

Vote: The Motion Passed Without Opposition.

Denise informed the Committee that \$236.00 was collected in the 7th Tradition basket and will be forwarded to GSO.

There will be a total of four English-speaking workshops and two Spanish-speaking workshops. Each English-speaking workshop will be conducted twice on Saturday night, once from 7:30 to 8:30pm and again from 8:45 to 9:45pm. Each Spanish speaking workshop will be conducted once, the first at 7:30pm and the second at 8:45pm.

Selection of workshop Chairs and Co-Chairs - Traditionally these workshops have a chair and a co-chair, usually DCMs and alternate DCMs, however area officers and standing chairs may also participate if they so choose. Denise asked if it were the sense of the meeting to continue these arrangements. Hearing no objections, Denise asked for volunteers to serve as chair and co-chairs.

Select Workshop Chairs & Co-Chairs

	Topic	Chair	Co-chair
English	1. How to be an effective GSR	George S, DCM, D. 35	Stanley H., Treatment Coord
English	2. Safety within our meetings	Catherine W., DCM, D. 18	Stacy D., DCM, D. 44
English	3. Upside down Triangle - our voices matter	Sue H., DCM, D. 34	Craig H., Alt. DCM, D. 34.
English	4. Back to Basics...1,2,3	Wanda C., Alt. DCM, D. 31	Richard G., Alt. DCM, D. 35
Spanish	1. How to be an effective GSR	Guadalupe A., Alt. DCM D. 30	Maribel G., DCM, D. 30
Spanish	2. Safety within our meetings	Felix H., Alt DCM, D 05	Jose T., DCM, D. 05

Saturday Evening Workshops

The Alternate Delegate, Julie R., is responsible for providing support for the Saturday evening workshops. She will order any pamphlets needed. She can reproduce any handouts if they are sent to her in time.

Vote Counters (3) & Timekeeper (1)

District 70 will provide 3 non-voting members to serve as vote counters. District 13 will provide 1 non-voting member to serve as timekeeper. Expenses for vote counters and the timekeeper expenses will not be reimbursed.

Friday Afternoon, Saturday Morning Workshops & Subcommittee Meetings

Denise noted that there were limited rooms available for 4:30 pm subcommittee meetings. Budget & Finance was the only subcommittee that scheduled to meet on Friday. She then indicated more rooms were available on Saturday morning for

subcommittee meetings and workshops. She also pointed out that we keep the 10:15 slots reserved for the Coordinator Workshops because it is a little later in the morning, and assembly attendees from around the state can come to our workshops. Committee members should encourage GSRs to come and attend the workshops. She polled the subcommittee chairs regarding their intentions for holding a meeting. Denise then polled the service coordinators regarding workshops.

Workshops and Subcommittee Meetings Prior to the Fall Assembly

9:00 AM	12 Concepts (Delegate)	Webmaster	Budget & Finance Sub	Site Investigation		
10:15 AM	How the Assembly Operates (Delegate)	Website subcommittee	Growth & Maintenance subcommittee	Literature Grapevine	PI Accessibilities	Treatment

Denise reviewed the Area 51 General Service Reference Material for the Special Election that is to be held at Fall Assembly. She reviewed "The Third Legacy Procedure" Chart and the Election Procedures as outlined in our A.A. Service Manual, the Persons Eligible to Stand for Office and the Job Descriptions for Secretary, the position to be elected at Assembly. After review of all materials, it was noted that Marlene C, DCM, D.93, term 2018-19 had moved out of state and should be removed from the list of Persons Eligible to Stand for Office. Denise then asked Julie R., Alternate Delegate but who has previously held the position of Secretary, to give a "realist" overview of the workload that is required to complete the tasks entailed in the secretary service position. When she had completed her overview, she asked if there were any questions.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: Given, in what seems to be a chronic problem with Spanish translation of the minutes, does that somehow need to be emphasized in the duties of the secretary?

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: That was something I pointed out to Rainer. Since the creation of the Translator position, the Alt. Delegate has not been as much of a liaison between the Spanish-speaking groups and the Area. They've gone to the Interpreter and the Translator but we've not had a Translator so I guess the default would be to the Alt. Delegate and the DCMs to figure it out. I don't know.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: So, the secretary doesn't have any responsibility in that area, is that what I am understanding?

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: The secretary creates the English version of the minutes to get to whoever translates it.

Denise went over the Sunday Agenda stating that the Committee will reconvene at 8:00 AM and that it is necessary to have a quorum to conduct business. She reminded everyone there were several reports to be given and 3 more agenda items for Sunday. Time is also allotted for any new business from the floor and a sharing session on "What's on Your Mind."

The Committee recessed for the evening with the Declaration of Unity.

SUNDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION
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Denise M., Chair opened the Sunday Morning Session with the Serenity Prayer. She indicated that we managed to get through all of the business slated for Saturday and that we would proceed with Sunday's agenda.

Treatment Facilities Report – Stanley H., Treatment Facilities Coordinator: Stanley opened his report by addressing some of the items on which he had previously reported. First, he indicated that ADATC (Alcohol Drugs And Treatment Centers) was still mostly "no in person" per Federal guidelines. He indicated he has received 3 requests from outside our state for BTG (Bridging The Gap) information for residents who will be returning to NC and he was able to coordinate those requests with BTG volunteers. He is still working on a digitalized BTG contact list and asked any DCMs to send contact information for any individuals within their district that is interested in volunteering to tf@aanorthcarolina.org. Stanley also reported on several requests for Treatment information within our state that he had received and responded. He indicated that he cannot attend the Bridging The Gap Workshop in SC on 9/10 but provided the flier for any who might be interested. Furthermore, he invited any district or intergroup that might be interested in hosting the BGTWW event for 2022 to download the bid form at coordinator@btgwww.org. Once he has received the completed form, he will get it submitted. Stanley concluded by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to be of service. **Please see attached report.**

Spanish Language Report - Rick L., Spanish Language Interpreter: Rick gave his report in both English and Spanish. He reported on two events that he had attended since the Spring Assembly and then a couple that he has scheduled this fall. He also reported on translating at the NC State Convention. It was his first experience translating on zoom and even though it was a

lot of work, it was tremendous fun and rewarding. Rick expressed enthusiasm at another opportunity to translate on zoom which will be the CPC/PI Conference in February of 2022. He thanked the fellowship for the honor and privilege to be of service.
Please see attached report.

CPC Report- Jon T., CPC Coordinator: As previously reported, Jon was absent from the Committee meeting, but he did submit a brief report by email as follows: "CPC/PI held a workshop at Area Assembly and held our 2nd CPC/PI workshop "Conference Approved Literature" with Pat B. as our featured guest. We will have a display at the North Carolina Nurses Conference in September and the North Carolina School Counselor Association Conference in October. Both events will be held in Concord and I've contacted the Metrolina Intergroup CPC/PI chair for support." He concluded by indicating that if anyone has an upcoming event or workshop or would like to be added to the CPC/PI email list to please contact him at cpc@aanorthcarolina.org.

PI Report- Marty M., PI Coordinator: Marty began his report by indicating that he, along with the CPC Coordinator, had continued their CPC/PI "Synergy In Service" Workshop Series with a workshop dedicated to how to use conference-approved literature. He had to cancel the workshop scheduled for August because of an emergency but plans to reschedule as soon as possible. When the date is set, Marty plans to send the details out on the CPC/PI email list and have it posted on the Area website. He reported that he has been invited to attend the Burke County Recovery Rally on 9/11 and a conference on Traditions on 10/16th in Sanford. Marty concluded by asking that if anyone has any questions, would like to be added to the email list or would like to invite him to an event to please contact his by email at pi@aanorthcarolina.org. **Please see attached report.**

Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee Report – Dale L., Growth & Maintenance Chair: Dale began her report by defining the purpose of the Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee: to review, support and advise Area 51 on requested initiatives by the Area 51 Chairperson. They currently have 8 initiatives, each with a leader and a couple of group members, on which that they are working. She indicated that they all meet monthly to provide progress reports on their individual initiative and to request help if needed. The first item, the Asset Inventory, is currently in the hands of Budget and Finance where an equipment service/purchase calendar is being created. The second item, the Area 51 Inventory, has the goal to have everything completed and ready to implement at the Spring Assembly 2022. The 3rd item involves the Intergroup/Central Office directory that provides a channel of communication between Area 51 and local regions. Dale indicated that the directory has been completed and is now with the Website Committee. Item 4 involves the P-3 Manual, and the ongoing updates and item 5 is the creation of a G&M Area 51 Website Sub-Page which Keith M (Archivist) and Kavaruss (Webmaster) are currently working on. Item 6 is the Area 51 Information Policy which includes Keith and a full team of individuals as they work to possibly create a records management system for Area 51. Dale reported that item 7, the possibility of a new Area 51 Technology Committee was still being reviewed but that item 8, Voting via a Mobile App, after much research and discussion, was not recommend at this time. She closed her report by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve on a subcommittee filled the most amazing and talented people.
Please see attached report.

Webmaster Report – Kavaruss C., Webmaster: Kavaruss began his report by explaining how to find meetings within the Area on the website address <https://aanorthcarolina.org/meetings/>. He expressed that the list pulls from districts/intergroups who have synced with the Meeting Guide App; therefore, if you do not see your local meetings listed, then he recommended that your district webmaster contact him at webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org. He added that districts could add their website as a link as well. He asked DCMs to check under the Resources tab on the website their district/intergroup to make sure the service locations listed are correct. Kavaruss then addressed some updates and changes that they have been working on to make the website perform as efficiently as possible. He indicated that he welcomes feedback pertaining to user experience and style of the website and those suggestions can be made through the website using the contact page at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/contacts/contact-us/>. Kavaruss reported that there is an Events link in the top dropdown menus where current and past events are listed. Individuals can reach out to the website committee to add a new event; however, all events must adhere to the website policies that are posted at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/policies-guidelines-bestpractices/>. Some other functions of the website that was reviewed by Kavaruss include how to subscribe to notification for Area 51 events or new information and how to request district passwords. He concluded his report by again extending thanks to the incredible work of the website committee chair, Sue H., who has implemented a task system to log and prioritize every request submitted to either the Webmaster or the website subcommittee. **Please see attached report.**

Denise M., Chair: I wanted to take a minute to talk about the contact us button that Kavaruss mentioned; some of you have gotten an email forwarded from me and in the subject line is something like "new entry calling contact us." These are requests that come in through the contact us button on our website; they come from everywhere. Sometimes it is a technical request, how can I get my meetings listed on the meeting guide app? But some of them are just true 12 step calls, like there will be a contact us entry that says, "I'm done, I'm so ready to stop drinking, what do I do?" And um, in a way it's very heart breaking that they are reaching out to an Area level website looking for help when we really work best at the local levels. So, what I try to do is I try to find out where they are and then I forward that to the DCMs where they are located hoping that you all will pick that up and get them connected with somebody either with an intergroup office or a GSR that's close to them that can reach out to them personally and invite them to a meeting, answer questions, meet them for coffee. If you do see an email forwarded from me with this very vague subject line that's what that is, that is the hand of AA from Area 51 reaching out. I did want to cover that and Kavaruss gave me a great segway to let you know what that is, I do struggle with the Charlotte area because your districts are so small and I am not sure about some of these little towns around Charlotte exactly which district it belongs so sometimes I just include all of you hoping you can figure it out, Most other districts are pretty well defined so I appreciate you guys picking up

those questions because most of them I will not know, like is this meeting still meeting virtual? Some of those types of questions are best handled at the local level where you will have the latest updated information. So, thank you.

Website Subcommittee Report – Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: Sue began her report by thanking the tireless work of her committee as well as several volunteers. They meet monthly on zoom. She indicated that they track requests coming in using Microsoft ToDo, and as a team, they have been answering the Contact-Us requests with the Chair handling the non-technical queries. Sue said the website subcommittee had created several agenda items to help resolve several common requests by members accessing the website. For example, one agenda item would allow assembly meeting notices, agenda, schedule (without background information) on the website so that they can be accessed by any AA member without login credentials. Another agenda item would allow district-sponsored, intergroup-sponsored, and YPAA-related events on the calendar of upcoming events. The third agenda item involves making the Website Scope, Composition and Policy document match how the subcommittee can function to be of maximum service to the Area. Sue indicated that any changes to this document needed to be approved by the membership and their goal is to improve that language as well as placing that information in their P3 document. She concluded her report by reminding everyone that even though the pandemic may have brought some pain to the fellowship, it also brought to light how powerful technology can be and how beneficial that technology can be for the fellowship. **Please see attached report.**

Denise M., Chair: That brings us to our next agenda item

AGENDA ITEM #9

That the Area 51 Website Policies ‘Public Content and Features’ be augmented to allow notices of Area intergroup, district and YPAA-sponsored events to be posted on the Area 51 Website.

Background Information: Add the following wording as an additional bullet to the VII Public Content and Features:

- Notices of Area 51 intergroup, district or YPAA-sponsored events, with topics that would be of interest to AA members across a variety of districts within our Area. If in person, the date and address will be shown. If a virtual or hybrid gathering, provide the date and time, with a link to a source for that district with the online link information. [background – the area events will be highlighted so they are clearly distinguishable from other events – this is to promote the events as much as possible, and to guide the reader to the source of the information]

Denise M., Chair: This agenda item comes moved and seconded from the Website Subcommittee. Is there any discussion?

Discussion:

Greg K., Registrar: Just have a question. So, just to be clear, so if the Metrolina Intergroup is having a workshop, that would go on there, if District 43 is having a workshop, a Traditions workshop, that would go on there, um, if QCYPAA was having a Traditions workshop, that would go on there but if the Primary Purpose Group of whatever town was having a Traditions workshop, that would not go on there? Is that right?

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: The goal is that Area-sponsored, district-sponsored, and YPAA-sponsored events would go on there. If something like the Primary Purpose on that is sponsored by a group, that would not be listed, but if the district that is holding that says they are sponsoring it, then that could go on there.

Dale L., DCM, D71: I think this is a good example of this. District 71 is sponsoring an evening with our Area 51 Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Um, I have fliers with me, and this is going to take place in Fletcher at Calvary Episcopal Church and it is September 18 from 4:30 to 8:00. Its an opportunity to meet the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, to ask questions specifically in this time of so much fear about changes that are occurring, dispel rumors, hear the facts. So, I just wanted to bring that up and I have fliers here on this table so please take some with you and join us. Thank you.

Keith M., Archivist: This subcommittee does a great job. I sat in some of their meetings, and they are kicking butt. Um, we are going to spend some time today going through these 3 agenda items and I just, recently we have given the chair more leeway to make decisions and to do things with our schedule and I think it has worked out really well for the chair. Um, I think it's time that we look at the composition of the policy for the website and open it up and give them a little bit more leeway to do things. Like we are going to talk about this now, we are going to go over 3 agenda items at the Assembly, we are going to spend all this time doing it, but if we look at the policy that's in place and change it and give them more leeway, cause these are pretty simple changes, they are not going to break AA, they are not going to break our website, they could just go and do these things during their monthly committee meeting and implement them on our website and it would save us a bunch of time and energy. So, I just want to say that I think it is time to look at the composition of the website policy and open it a little bit and give them more leeway to things without having to come to the Assembly - to the Committee meeting first with an agenda item and then to the Assembly to get these simple changes approved and made, which would make our website better. Thanks.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: I'm a member of TRCYPAA, the Triangle committee of young people in AA, young people being with room to grow. And I really support all of these YPAA conferences, regional conferences, state conferences, international. ICYPAA unfortunately had to cancel next weekend in New Orleans, but there are a lot of them and some of them

are virtual, in fact now they are virtually all virtual and I wonder whether there are sufficient guidelines in this motion to differentiate between. It doesn't say YPAA events that occurring within Area 51 and again, it's a tremendous service, but it's going to be a difficult position that you are going to put somebody in to decide whether it's an interest to young people in AA in NC if there's a conference in California. I bring that up and I'm sure that Sue has further information. Thank you.

Adrian C., DCM, D.23: What I am going to say I think it is more important that I was one of the founding members of our website committee for my district and for posting events we established guidelines based on whether or not there is a fee, whether or not or who's technically sponsoring it and the geographic location. Um, you know, it's wonderful if Virginia YPAA is trying to do something but does that need to be on our website? So, when I went back and read this, I noticed that it doesn't say anything about anybody being required to post something. It's allowing them to when something's compelling. I believe the fact we had Rainer talking is actually one of the things that brought this up to the Area, so I think it's a wonderful idea and I trust our trusted servants to make the right decision.

Denise M., Chair: You all appear ready to vote. (Re-reads the motion). All in favor? Any opposed?

Motion Passes Without Opposition.

Agenda Item # 10

That the Area 51 Website Policies 'Public Content and Features' be modified such that the Area Assembly meeting notices (without background details), Area Assembly meeting agendas (without background details), and Area Assembly schedule be accessible in the 'Public Content and Features' section.

Background Information: Many of the requests for information, and need to gain knowledge of a district's login credentials, are from GSRs and other AA members wanting information about Area Assemblies, specifically those listed above. There is no specific reason why these need to be behind authentication challenges. The Assembly information will be available in both private (secured by ID/Password credentials) and public sections with the background details existing only in the private section.

Denise M., Chair: This agenda comes moved and seconded from the Website Subcommittee. Is there any discussion?

Discussion:

Roger A., DCM, D.11: Um to kind of follow up on what Keith said, I think that we have our trusted servants, and we trust that our servants will do the right thing. I think that the whole idea of having password protected information on the website is important. As long as the information isn't sensitive in any way shape or form, especially in relation to anonymity, I think we should be able to trust our website subcommittee to open that up. And again, to follow up on what Keith said, there's no reason for us, in my opinion, there just isn't any point of us putting this in front of a whole Assembly. I am just saying we should trust the committee to do the right thing. Thanks.

Rainer L., Delegate: Fully in favor of the idea of using our website to spread information. Um, I wanted to ask one question of whether we are currently posting agenda items and schedules on our website? And, secondly, to raise a concern, I'm not worried about background material, but I am worried about the timeline of our agendas and if we send out an advanced copy that we are going to be talking about agenda item 9 on Sunday morning, that people will pick and choose what portions of our Assembly to attend and it will impact our participation or quorum. You know, we may also want to consider what impact this has for our committees. I was always told that my responsibility is to show up prepared to do the business of Alcoholics Anonymous. You know we have these items printed on our agenda, it's a credit to website subcommittee that they are meeting outside of our Area events, but oftentimes our business comes from the subcommittee meetings that are held onsite. It's important that people show up willing to participate in the events as they occur, and I have concern of itemizing an agenda by time that there will lead to some selective attendance.

Adrian C., DCM, D.23: I wanted one point of clarification: this information is already posted on our website, it's just the difference is you have to login to see it and those passwords are distributed to GSRs freely, so I don't think it really changes anything and I believe our schedules are normally that everybody knows that these are very tentative and so as what gets discussed when or other items may be added is kind of accepted as par for the course. And personally, I don't find it all that tragic that if somebody's home group doesn't want to pay for a hotel because they want somebody there on Sunday morning to discuss one agenda item, then that's the home groups prerogative. Thanks.

Denise M., Chair: So, I do want to clarify a little on what is posted on our website; the notices are posted on the website. While we were meeting virtually, all of the documents were available on the website. For this event that was in person, the agenda was not posted on the website, the schedule was not posted on the website, but the notice was. So, because we have been doing it in a virtual world, because I had no table to say go to the side table and pick up your documents, that was the only way to get the information to you. Um, but for this event I reverted to our traditional way for in person meeting format which was go to side table and pick up documents. They were not available in advance except to my proofreaders but most recently in our virtual meetings they were, but they had not been prior to that time.

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: Our proposal on this item is not that we are tethering you to posting the schedule; it is saying, if the schedule is asked to be posted, that we also post it on the public area so that they don't have to have passwords. It is not saying that we are going to require more information to be posted.

Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator: I think it is a great idea. I know when I first came here, I didn't even know the district had a login password or what that login was, and I know I wanted information, but I couldn't get to it because it was under a password. So, I think it is a great idea to have it accessible to people who may not know all the ropes. Thanks.

Kevin K., DCM, D.32: So, I heard the concern about anonymity and passwords, and I would think that makes sense, but I'm just trying to think because we don't use people's first and last name and we don't use pictures and stuff like that so I am wondering what is the actual purpose of a password and what information we are trying to protect? And then the other thing is if we just open

the website up so I can say is “I forget my password, so I need a password so I can get in.” Then what are we doing anyway if this is all I need to do? If you could help me to understand that.

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: The idea behind the password protected areas is this is where we post information related to subcommittees or the Chair or the Delegate's reports or other things that are working documents. We try to make sure that anything that the fellowship needs to have access to as much as possible that we post in an area that does not require a password. We have added the password retrieval page that sends an email to myself, Nancy or Kavaruss and one of the first questions we ask is what documents are you trying to get to, can we guide you to documents? At lot of time people are asking for passwords because they have a fear of missing out, a fear of wanting to get to information that is up there and a fear that we are hiding something from them. We want to make them realize that a lot of the documents they are looking for are truly available to them without a password and that the documents behind password protection are primarily for those that are in an officer's role or a committee role. We have to answer a lot of questions about, where is the schedule, where is the agenda that we don't necessarily think they need a password for but if they ask for a password, we tell them what the password is and then we CC the DCM of their district, so the DCM knows that someone from district asked for a password.

Denise M., Chair: Okay, you appear ready to vote. (re-reads motion) All in favor? Any opposed?

Motion Passes Without Opposition.

AGENDA ITEM #11

That the Area 51 Website Policies Composition be amended as follows:

- **Add subcommittee voting privileges to the webmaster**
- **Add the role of subcommittee Technical Advisor, of which there can be multiple, with subcommittee voting privileges to serve a one-year term which can be renewed multiple times. The advisors are first approved by the website subcommittee and recommended for approval at the winter committee meeting, for the year long-term starting at the conclusion of that winter committee meeting.**
- **Clarify the third bullet under 'Scope' to mirror wording elsewhere in the P3**
- **Move the Website Composition, Scope and Procedure content to the P3 under the description of Website Subcommittee, and reference that in the Website Policies document available from the Area 51 website, among other locations**

Background Information:

- First paragraph under composition is changed from:

The voting membership of the website committee is composed of District Committee Members and in their absence, their alternates, from each region in the Area. Districts within each region will be represented on a rotating basis.

to the following:

The membership of the website subcommittee is composed of

- DCMs and their alternates, from the regions in the Area1
- The webmaster2
- Technical advisors
 - These are AA members who have expressed interest in the role, and who have been recommended for that role officially by the subcommittee.

Each of the DCMs, the webmaster, and the technical advisors are voting members. If a DCM is absent, the alternate DCM can vote in their place. We welcome all who wish to participate in the subcommittee, especially those who have a passion for technology or its application to help the sick and suffering alcoholic.

- Third bullet under Scope changed from

Recommend to the Area Chair an individual to serve as Webmaster that will do the design, build and day-to-day maintenance of the website.

to the following:

Follow the Third Legacy procedure to elect a Webmaster and recommend that individual to the incoming Area Chair for approval by the Area Election Assembly.

Denise M., Chair: This agenda item comes moved and seconded from the Website Subcommittee. Is there any discussion?

Discussion:

Keith M., Archivist: The voting membership, so are we asking that the Webmaster has a vote at Committee meetings and Assemblies or are we asking that the Webmaster can actually vote during your committee meetings?

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: We are asking for the Webmaster to have a vote at subcommittee meetings when we bring items up for agenda. It is not to allow him or her extra voting privileges beyond the subcommittee boundaries.

Denise M., Chair: I believe the Webmaster does have voting privileges at Committees and Assemblies. Okay, just to make it clear that the Webmaster is a voting member of this body.

Keith M., Archivist: So, thanks for clarifying that. So, this is another example of why would a subcommittee have to come to the Committee and the Assembly to ask that a member of their committee have voting privilege. It might be because there is a policy out there or a past advisory action that states the webmaster in their subcommittee doesn't have voting privileges, but why do they have to come to the Committee, why do we have to go to the Assembly to give our Webmaster the ability to vote during their own subcommittee meeting that they have once a month or at Committee meeting or Assembly? It seems like we are bringing stuff, and this is part of what we are supposed to do today, we are supposed to look at these agenda items and see it makes sense to bring it to the Assembly. Is it a good use of our time at the Assembly when they amongst themselves can decide, hey the webmaster can vote in our subcommittee meetings? It's not like we are asking to give him privileges that he doesn't already have, anyway, I don't think this is something that needs to be brought before the Assembly. It is something they should decide themselves and if there is a policy that is preventing them from making that decision, then let's change that policy.

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair: So, the policy that was written before states that any changes to that policy has to be made and approved by the Area Assembly, that's why we have to, when we want to change it we have to bring it in front of the Committee. I would be all in favor of us approving this one right now and then bring something later to say that the way that the policy of the subcommittee works internally can be changed at will in the subcommittee and the P3 be changed to reflect that. But since we are bound right now by what it says, we are restricted by what we can do and we would like to change so we can function and work fast but I also understand that as a subcommittee we are bound by restraints in how we operate. So that's where we are at.

Stevie D., Treasurer: I just want to from experience for me personally, it was brought to my attention at my Friday night meeting, as a person in Budget and Finance, I don't have a vote. I don't know where the policy is on that but I was told that I do not have a vote, so I understand where you are with that. Thanks.

Kavaruss C., Webmaster: I really appreciate everybody's interest in our committee, it's really cool. I just say for the technical advisor role, um, not all the DCMs that come to the committee are technically savvy and its very random, (laughter in background) and I'm not saying they don't know anything, I'm just saying that (more laughter in the background) I am saying that it is random, of course at the discretion of the chair, but as it stands now and in the future, we just want to make sure that people who have experience and who have a passion and interest in the website at the Area level and they have the expertise to be able to have an input, to make suggestions or to make improvements and it just makes it easier on the committee and myself to be able to do my job more effectively, so that's what the Technical Advisor is and thank you.

Denise M., Chair: You appear ready to vote. (re-reads a summary of the motion). All in favor? Are there any opposed?

Motion Passes Without Opposition.

Denise reviewed the 9 agenda items to be forwarded to the Fall Assembly: 1) Approval of the dates for The Freedom From Bondage; 2) That Area 51 adopt the GSR Unity Fund as a permanent budgeted item; 3) That Area 51 utilize the Zoom Account on a permanent basis; 4) To approve the proposed Area 51 2022 Budget; 5) To approve the Site Selections for August 2023 through July 2025 minus the one Winter Committee that is still to be selected; 6) That the Alternate Convention Chair become a member of the Committee with a voice, but no vote unless the Convention Chair is absent and the expense become a budgeted item for Area 51; 7) That the Website Policies be modified to allow notices of intergroup, district and YPAA-sponsored events to be posted on the Area Website; 8) That the Website Policies be modified allowing notices and agendas (without background details) to be accessible in the public section and 9) Update the Website Policies Composition.

The Chair asked if anyone had any New Business to bring before the Area Committee Meeting. Hearing none, the Committee took a short break before the start of the Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?"

Short Break

Sharing Session

Denise M., Chair: At this time, we will open the floor for "General Sharing" – a time when you have a chance to speak to issues, also called "What's on your Mind?" This is an opportunity to bring forward your ideas, concerns, ask questions about things you don't understand or create a discussion for the Committee to dive into. This is the forum where a spark of an idea can become a project for the Area to help carry the message. The floor is now open.

Roger A., DCM, D.11: Been thinking a lot since the last discussion about the website, some things that Keith had said and I've been wondering what our processes are and I think it would be wonderful if the Committee had the power or maybe it already does to be able to say, what there's no reason for this to be an agenda item and go in front of the whole Assembly. To be able to say we don't need to do that, that we, as a Committee, can approve this item; that unless there is something that is already there in the rule book that says no, I would like to know what keeps us from saying as a Committee we approve and then there's no need to go in front of the Assembly

Denise M., Chair: My understanding of that is that the Advisory Actions trumps everything. So, if there is an Advisory Action that something has to go in front of the Assembly, to change it, it has to go in front of the Assembly. The change can be, we don't have to go in front of the Assembly, but until that change is made then you are ruled by the previous Advisory Action. Which we have up here in a box (the booklet detailing past Advisory Actions) printed in paper form and they are also available on the website as a pdf and searchable form.

Greg K., Registrar: Um, two things, (and I'm not trying to get the golden mic award) the main thing is about the Registrar's position; I've been involved in quarterly zoom calls with other Area Registrar's and staff members at GSO and the movement is virtual first and print second. This is really about the packets. It comes out to be between 1500 and 2000 pages and I don't get many change forms and I don't know what the right process is but I think it would be prudent to make that kind of like an opt in and if you request we will certainly be happy to print it for you but with the discussions that I have had with Officers, Coordinators and DCMs is that most are fine with not getting it. There's just a lot of paper going to waste, and I wanted to bring that up and then my other thing was about prudent reserve (I know I'm changing gears, but I wanted to get this out) I just think PI is always a way that we can efficiently and effectively utilize surplus monies towards our primary purpose.

Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator: I don't know if this has been considered and done, but when our Spanish-speaking members of our fellowship come up the mic to speak they are interpreted and that takes time and I thought maybe we ought to give them a little bit more time to say what they need to, maybe a minute, minute and a half extra, before we hear the tinkling of the bell so they can finish up what they are saying.

Denise M., Chair: I didn't get a chance to talk to our timekeeper; I was thinking something similar but the stopwatch has a pause so it could be paused when the Interpreter is speaking, then started again so they are being treated as an equal but still allowing time for the interpretation to occur.

Pat B., Literature Coordinator: In room 915 when we adjourn, I will be open for half an hour or until the last person leaves.

Stanley H., Treatment Coordinator: Just making a public request for contact information for individuals in your district that are interested in volunteering. I am getting lots of requests and in order to put those folks in contact with the District Treatment person or intergroup person, I need the contact information. I am going to hang out for a little bit and you are here now so this would be a good time to get me your contacts information so I can update my list. I am looking for your help so I can help you to help them.

Tony S., Alt DCM, D.43: You know we voted on item 10, I spoke to Rainer earlier on this, and you know the contents they were talking about on here was the Area Assembly Meeting notices and such, but I think one thing that would be good wasn't discussed in this which is the Pre-Conference items, the things that our members can get to but it's still behind a password protected. Not the background information on all the Pre-Conference items but maybe just the items themselves so that we can get familiar with them and get to it easily so that when they do go to the Pre-Conference, they have some information they have already had a chance to look at. Just my thoughts. Thanks.

Stevie D., Treasurer: Please DCMs take those envelopes back to your GSRs so they will have the envelopes if they choose for their group to do a contribution and it was brought to my attention, that possibly I might set up an agenda item to possibly get an Alternate Treasurer that could be trained as we go along so its not a big transitional period. That's it from me.

Wendy A., Alt DCM, D.21: So, my question is, I was noting and being a fairly new in this position, when you guys set up the committees or subcommittees, how do you go about actually choosing? I know we do off year, on year with the Delegate, but I am a little confused as to how the whole process works for somebody who is new walking into General Service and you get put into a committee for someone like me, I'm not tech savvy at all and cried literally the first day I went to a subcommittee meeting and they were talking a language I don't understand and believe me they have all heard me say what are you talking about? (laughing) And to go along with that, if we are in a situation where we just can't do that particular subcommittee, we're not understanding it or whatever, is there a way we can ask to switch to another subcommittee?

Denise M., Chair: Very good questions, multiple parts there. So, if you take out your yellow schedule and look on the back of it we have this chart and believe me this is master's class Chair's stuff right here (laughter). So, its divided into 2 sides, this is the currently rotating on term side and this is the rotating off term side. So, rotating on term side are districts which have elections in the same year that the Area has elections. The off term side are districts that have elections this year when the Area is not having elections Any second year who are rotating out, their district should be listed on this side of the chart. So, whichever is the quote unquote is the new side, the new side which was changed up this year will be the on term and this side of the off term and they will stay the same because we want that subcommittee to have members who have been there before with that knowledge. It also gets very confusing when people use the terms Committee and subcommittee interchangeable but the subcommittee reports to the Committee and the Committee is the Officers, the Coordinators the DCMs. So when it comes time (to rotate) which it is coming up which essentially one side will stay static so we will have people who have been on the subcommittee for a year with prior knowledge with new people just coming on the subcommittee and then the other side of the chart gets scrambled. It's supposed to be a complete random process but it rarely ends up being random because we also have the requirement of making each subcommittee have representation from each of the 7 regions So what you do is you look over here and you see Budget & Finance, they have somebody from 1,4,6 & 7 so on the scramble side I have to fill in region 2,3 and 5 so its not so random. Of the choices left from each region at least one is going to be in Budget and Finance, so it turns out not to be quite as random as intended. That is how it happens. Julie and I tried to mix it up from region 6 because they all rotate at the same time, and I think Newton is going to tell me what I missed in my master's class.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: Well, I have a PHD in piled higher and deeper. I appreciate that explanation, that's one of cogent and coherent explanations of it I've heard; um, I do want to stress also that in our Area, believe it or not, we actually try to structure things as best we can to reflect the Conference, the General Service Conference Structure, and it becomes an advantage, or at least it was for me, I feel sure it is for Rainer, that we've gone through a lot of the things here that the you experience at the General Service Conference and a part of that is, a big part of that is the assignment of Conference Committees for Delegates. It's very much the same thing, ideally it is random but then there things like who was on it last year or last 2 years, whether the regions of the country are balanced and those kinds of things so it becomes not totally random and you don't get a do over so if you get assigned to a committee that you really didn't want to be, then that's, hopefully God qualifies the chosen; that's the way our service structure ideally works. And I appreciate that there are certainly committees that I would feel more comfortable on than others, but

my job is really to represent, do the best for Alcoholics Anonymous I can and trust that a loving God had is behind it somehow. So Rainer and I were both on Conference Trustees Committee and that would not have been my choice for me but it turned out to be a wonderful experience. And so even if you are on something that you feel like you can't understand or comprehend or that you are not being of use, I think that for me that is just a remnant of my egotism, that I can be of service on whichever committee I get assigned. Thanks.

Denise M., Chair: And thank you for answering that part of the question, you know the 3rd or 4th part; you can ask but I will have to tell you no. As the chair I will have to tell you no. If you think that you are a novice or an untechnical person, you represent that on the Website Subcommittee and that Website Subcommittee needs that representation there. You are the one that says I don't know; I don't know how to find this on the website; we need to make it easier and that is what you represent and that is part of the beauty of the randomness of it. You get technically savvy people and people who are not and it needs all of those.

Kavarus C., Webmaster: Denise just said what I was going to share (laughter) Thanks for the explanation of the not so random and the importance of all the people on the subcommittee and it is very true that I appreciate the feedback from the people who may have trouble with the website which means that we have areas to improve so everybody's input is important and valuable to the subcommittee. I heard about the Delegate's Corner, which either fortunately or unfortunately will be password protected, I don't know great that is but that kind of feedback is just very helpful for us. Thanks.

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair: So, I remember coming to my first Committee Meeting and being so compelled by the minority opinion and later on telling someone about it and they asked why didn't you say that you changed your vote and ask for a motion to reconsider? I had no idea that was an option, and I also had no idea at what point I was supposed to do that, um, and so, I would love to see, I don't think we need to ask that question every time, um, then you will get the random people who just want to do it, but maybe a blanket statement at the beginning of the business session stating if you were compelled to by the minority opinion this is the time that you would speak as we go through business today would be helpful to brand new DCMs, Alt DCMs, GSRs, Alt GSRs who just don't even know that's an option and for Site Investigation and you guys heard us say that we didn't have any bids on the east coast, we also have seen several of our venues just no longer even have the space. People that have bid in the past, they've remodeled, and they no longer have the space for us or they are continuing to choose year after year not to bid, so that committee really wants to grow the scope of venues that they are looking at, so we need everybody's help on that. If you know of resorts, conventions centers, hotels around your area or as you are traveling the state that you think would be a great venue, keep us in mind so that in January of next year when we are looking to send out those RFBs that we have even more opportunities for geographical diversity.

Denise M., Chair: I do think that it begins to a little bit like "How it Works" where a lot of people sit here and don't really tune in at the beginning, but the part that Clayborne read at the very beginning from "How the Area 51 Committee/Assembly Operates" provides specific instructions on how to respond as part of the minority opinion (Denise read section referenced in handout) and specifically references that a request to reconsider a motion must be in the form of a motion by someone who had voted with the prevailing side and now after further consideration wishes to change his or her vote. She goes on to point out that it says, "please note, the chairperson will not ask if anyone wishes to so move. If you are eligible and so inclined, you must do so in turn at the microphone. It requires a second So it is something that we read at every meeting and the Delegate and the Alternate Delegate has "How the Assembly Operates" workshop and it is not dry like this is. It's a skit, it's fun, it's interactive and that is why we need to encourage GSRs to come to the Assembly early and attend these workshops. I remember sitting in these rooms and being utterly confused and not knowing if we were voting on the motion, the amendment to the motion, what is the vote? And it was very hard to read the room virtually. Julie has done a great job of trying to see where people were and pause, explain where we were, um but part of it is experience "How the Assembly Operates" is a great introduction. I know if it was around when I first came in, it was not around when I first came in, I would have probably had to go see it three times before anything stuck. I think it's still confusing, we do what we can to educate but it's a strange process if you are not familiar with formal business sessions.

Karavus C., Webmaster: As my first in person Committee Meeting, I hope I'm making my sponsor proud, so I'm glad to be here. Y'all are some cool people, I'm going to be honest. I just want to re-iterate, I had it as a part of my report, I just need to get with DCMs to go over the areas that are included in your district and if your district has an intergroup. And if you need to leave early just email me at webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org so that we can have that information.

Viviana S., DCM, D.92: Since I start this program it has been a learning journey for me. I only know that I don't know anything. It's just you know, I think that we're all here are being elected for our districts or for something, you know, time or commitment to the program or for some reason. You know I have been for many years in the program, but I was, um, oh how long you been here? 39 years, oh my God, okay. Viviana just shut it down, but it is I think a little bit of trust of what we are doing. Sometimes it seems like our hands are tied, rules and regulations, you know I think a little bit of trust of, you know, of what we are doing here is for our own good. For suggestions, I learn to follow the suggestions which is pretty much how I work my program. Thank you.

Denise M., Chair: So, when I was involved in creating the P3 manual, I got to be on that subcommittee, people definitely asked to get off that subcommittee. (laughter) Um, we had this discussion about practices, policies, and procedures. Right, so, policies are an advisory action like I was talking about before, it's an agenda item that is brought forward before the Assembly, the Assembly approves it, that's an advisory action; that's very binding. Um, practices and policies (procedures) are not as binding. So, Greg brought up a really good point; he and I have had a lot of discussions about how much paper he uses to print all of these packets and I believe that would be a practice. We are not bound to provide these physical packets for you guys, so if you don't want one, if you would rather just have an electronic copy, email Greg and tell him I just don't want all that information in my packet; I want my name tag or if you want some pieces of information but not everything, maybe you want the district contribution forms, but not all of the group change forms, just let us know. We are here to give you what you would like, the information that we have in whatever form you would like to have it if we are able to. So just email Greg and let him know what you want. If you only want electronic, he would be delighted.

Denise thanked all the Area Officers, Coordinators and DCMs for their hard work and participation this weekend for the good of Alcoholics Anonymous. She reminded everyone about making their hotel reservations for the Fall Assembly before the October 15th deadline and the importance of staying at the hotel. She concluded by again thanking everyone for their support of Area 51 and that this is what brings A.A. services in Area 51 to life.

We adjourned with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted, Lisa P., Acting Area 51 Secretary.

Reports are submitted in the order in which they were presented

Treasurer's Report

AREA 51 - NCGSC

2021 2ND Qtr. Financial Report (April 1st 2021-June 30th 2021)

GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 1/1/21 \$27,461

Receipts:

Contributions (Grp., Dist., Inter., Other)	\$ 53,801
Literature Sales	\$ 943
Coffee Contributions	\$ -
INTEREST	<u>\$ 94</u>
Total Income	\$ 54,838

Expenditures:

Assembly/Meetings	\$ 1,670
Communications	\$ 2,900
Literature Purchases/Sales Tax	\$ 849
Archives Rent/Insurance	\$ 3,430
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,207
TRANSITION	
Officer and Coordinator Expenses	<u>\$ 6,427</u>
Total Expense	\$ 16,483 <u>\$ 38,355</u>

GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 06/30/21 \$ 65,816

MONEY MARKET SAVINGS ACCOUNT

PRUDENT RESERVE (GENERAL FUND)	\$ 54,925
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 6/30/21 \$ 80,668

CORRECTIONS CHECKING BALANCE 6/30/21 \$ 1,909

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS \$ 148,392

APPROVED BUDGET 2022 Area 51

PROJECTED INCOME		Totals
Group Contributions	\$	101,599.00
Miscellaneous (Interest, coffee)	\$	2,382.00
Literature Sales:		
Grapevine	\$	5,019.00
AAWS	\$	6,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	115,500.00
Income less Literature	\$	103,981.00
PROJECTED EXPENSES		
Assemblies & Meetings:		
Audio/Visual	\$	4,400.00
Catering / Coffee	\$	6,500.00
Taper Lodging	\$	481.00
Meals	\$	140.00
Guest Speaker:	\$	500.00
Lodging & Meals	\$	745.00
Transportation	\$	800.00
Comp. Rooms	\$	500.00
CSR Unity	\$	1,174.00
DCM Unity Fund	\$	1,761.00
ZOOM	\$	1,140.00
Total Assembly/Meetings	\$	16,526.00
Communications:		
Office Supplies	\$	1,790.00
Post Office Box Rent	\$	550.00
Postage/Mail Services	\$	500.00
Printing/Copying	\$	2,400.00
Committee Notices/Agendas	\$	600.00
Committee Minutes	\$	1,800.00
Assembly Notices/Agendas	\$	3,500.00
Assembly Minutes	\$	700.00
Miscellaneous	\$	650.00
Badges, workbooks, etc	\$	12,480.00
Total Communications	\$	12,480.00
Literature - Purchases:		
AAWS World Services	\$	7,500.00
Grapevine	\$	5,400.00
Total Literature	\$	12,900.00
Misc. Expenses:		
Bank Charges	\$	200.00
Gifts	\$	50.00
Sales Tax	\$	1,040.00
Transition on election years	\$	500.00
Unreimbursed Travel (2)	\$	1,000.00
Property & Acquisition	1000	\$
Total Miscellaneous	\$	2,790.00
Officer Expenses:		
Chair:		
Lodging	\$	1,450.00
Meals	\$	420.00
Mileage	\$	575.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	197.00
Total Chairman Expenses	\$	2,642.00
Alternate Chair:		
Lodging	\$	1,450.00
Meals	\$	420.00
Mileage	\$	575.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	197.00
Total Alt Chair Expenses	\$	2,642.00
Delegate:		
Conference	\$	5,000.00
Pre-Conference	\$	1,000.00
Lodging	\$	3,225.00
Meals	\$	685.00
Mileage	\$	1,340.00
Registration	\$	100.00
SSE Reg. Forum (Even Years)	\$	750.00
SSAASA (Odd Years)	\$	840.00
Unreimbursed Travel Expense	\$	400.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$	13,350.00
Alternate Delegate:		
Pre-Conference	\$	1,000.00
Lodging	\$	1,500.00
Meals	\$	420.00
Mileage	\$	1,340.00
SSE Regional Forum (Even Yrs.)	\$	750.00
SSAASA (Odd Years)	\$	100.00
Registration	\$	300.00
Unreimbursed Travel Expense	\$	5,410.00
Total Alt. Delegate Expenses	\$	5,410.00
Standing Committee and Coordinator Expenses		
Archives:		
Lodging	\$	1,325.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
N&T Archives Workshop	\$	1,125.00
Repository	\$	5,700.00
Repository Insurance	\$	440.00
Unreimbursed Travel	\$	420.00
Total Archives Expense	\$	10,575.00
Corrections:		
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Total CF Expenses	\$	3,665.00
CPC:		
Literature	\$	250.00
Public Events	\$	1,400.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Lodging	\$	1,320.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Total CPC Expenses	\$	6,335.00
Public Information:		
Literature	\$	250.00
Public Events	\$	1,400.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Lodging	\$	1,320.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Total PI Expenses	\$	6,335.00
Grapevine:		
Communication Material	\$	60.00
Lodging	\$	1,320.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	500.00
Unreimbursed Travel	\$	420.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	100.00
Total Grapevine Expenses	\$	3,565.00
Literature - AAWS:		
Communication Material	\$	60.00
Lodging	\$	1,320.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	500.00
Unreimbursed Travel	\$	420.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	100.00
Total Literature Expense	\$	3,565.00
Standing Committee and Coordinator Expenses		
State Conv. Chair		
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Total Conv Chair Expenses	\$	2,165.00
Treatment Facilities		
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Total Treatment Expenses	\$	3,665.00
Accessibilities		
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Total Access Expenses	\$	3,665.00
Interpreter		
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	1,500.00
Total Interpreter Expenses	\$	2,665.00
Translator		
Lodging	\$	720.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Resource Funds (3)	\$	500.00
Total Translator Expenses	\$	2,385.00
Site Investigation:		
Communication Material	\$	50.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	50.00
Total Site Inv. Expenses	\$	100.00
Budget & Finance:		
Communication Materials	\$	150.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	50.00
Total B & F Expenses	\$	200.00
Website		
Registrar & Operate	\$	3,055.00
Communication	\$	50.00
Unreimbursed Expense	\$	50.00
Total Website Expense	\$	3,155.00
Web Master		
Lodging	\$	1,000.00
Meals	\$	315.00
Mileage	\$	850.00
Total Web Master Expenses	\$	2,165.00
Total Operating Budget	\$	115,500.00
Prudent Reserve		\$57,750.00

I am an alcoholic and my name is Greg K. It is my pleasure to serve you as Registrar. 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. My report is going to be more technical which is funny as this is the exact kind of report that, at one time, I would have thought was really boring and maybe even unimportant. I hope you all don't think that as some of these things are important regarding communication. Communication within our Fellowship is vital and we are only as good as the information we gather.

Since May 12th of this year, I have made 163 updates in our area database. We currently have 1,088 groups with 19,555 members. There are 52 Correctional Facility groups with 1,272 members. I have only made 1 update to Correctional Facility groups in all of 2021 so I wonder how accurate those numbers are.

Most of my time of late has been spent in the Fellowship Connection (FC) database. My goal is to get both area and FC databases as closely matched up as possible. The easier, softer way is work on FC first and then follow with our area database. The main thing in our database will be switching group numbers from the old FNV number to the new NetSuite ID number. I have participated in quarterly calls on Zoom with G.S.O. employees and other Registrars. The goal is identifying ways the new database can be more user friendly. Another benefit is that this meeting lets me know that I'm not alone in my occasional frustrations and much like the rest of A.A., we have a common problem and a common solution. I am now starting to understand what Rainer calls "humility moments."

Now about how you can help me help you...If you register a new group through the area, we will then register that new group in Fellowship Connection, however; if you register a new group directly with G.S.O., they will not inform the area. I would say it is best to go through the area first but if you choose to go straight to the General Service Office then please either Cc or forward to registrar@aanorthcarolina.org. Please fill out the form COMPLETELY as most of the fields are required. Every individual with a service position (area, district or group) must have a physical mailing address to be entered in the FC database. If you see on virtual or printed forms that you have received (whether it be G.S.R., D.C.M. or alternate) something along the lines of "no address listed" then you are in area database but most likely not in Fellowship Connection. Also, position emails CANNOT be used for FC database. Our Delegate and D.C.M.'s now have "read only" access to FC database. They can see what I see but cannot make any updates. You should have received a letter from G.S.O. and you should have been sent a password. Please look at groups in your district and let me know of any mistakes so I can get appropriate updates and corrections made.

There are still questions and frustrations about printed kits such as G.S.R. and D.C.M. Once a service position is entered in Fellowship Connection then a person should receive a kit in approximately 7-14 business days. New groups have to wait 30 days for the Group Handbook to be mailed. In my last report at Spring Assembly, I mentioned that there had been a glitch in the system and G.S.O. Staff was working hard to track and mail kits that got skipped. We are now more virtual first and print second, however; you are entitled to a printed kit. If you haven't received a kit and believe you should have then please feel free to email or call me and I will pass on to try and get a kit mailed to you. If an update is sent for a service position then I cannot backdate more than 30 days or a kit will not be mailed.

Something new since our Spring Assembly is Registrars can now enter virtual groups in areas and districts in FC. There is a drop down tab for virtual groups just like regular or correctional facility groups. Phone groups are considered in the same category as virtual groups for this.

This service position is not one I would have been interested in some years ago. I can honestly say that saying yes to A.A. participation somehow seems to make me a better person. I am here to be useful so PLEASE let me know if I can help to any of you and/or your districts/groups. I want to thank Clayborne T. for his help and thank you all for allowing me to serve!

Yours in Fellowship & Service,
Greg K.
Area 51 Registrar

Alternate Delegate's Report

My name is Julie and I am an alcoholic. I serve as your Area 51 Alternate Delegate.

I have 4 topics to report to you this weekend. GSO Financials, Grapevine and La Vina financials, SSAASA, and Final Conference reports and of course a general musing that I have been thinking about.

But first a little fun bit. Save the Date! December 11th is Bill W's sobriety date and there is a virtual Pan-Continental Special Forum being planned. More information will follow soon from James H at the Regional Forums desk. So be on the lookout and spread the word to your GSRs and homegroups.

Here are the financials from AA World Services:

- Contributions year to date are \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000 and \$911,513 more than this time last year.
- Gross literature sales year to date are \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000 and \$837,572 more than last year.
- June gross sales were \$981,496, just missing becoming the second month over a \$1 million since February 2020.
- Gross sales in July as of the 16th are \$587,275, placing literature on track for a \$1 million month in July.

Grapevine:

- These are unaudited results for the first 6 months, ending May 31, 2021.
- Average paid circulation of the Grapevine magazine was 68,645. This compared with a budget of 67,547 and 2020 actual of 68,834.
- Total income for the first five months of the year was \$934,409 which is \$324,984 more than budgeted and \$242,999 more than the \$691,409 achieved in 2020.
- Total costs and expenses of the magazine for the first five months were \$665,428, which were \$43,722 lower than budgeted and \$98,413 less than the \$763,840 in 2020.
- After adding interest earned, there was a net income for the period ending May 31, 2021, of \$268,981 compared to a budgeted net loss of \$99,725.

La Viña:

- Average paid subscriptions for La Viña were 5,913 compared to 5,687 budgeted and 8,338 in May 2020. Great news on this - 1200 new subscriptions will be added to this number as the 25th Anniversary of La Vina event included subscriptions in their registration.
- Income from magazine sales was \$5,032 compared with a budget of \$11,400. After deducting the costs and expenses of \$173,000, a shortfall between revenue and expenses of \$167,968 resulted for this service activity.
- This compares with a budgeted shortfall of \$146,075 and a shortfall of \$132,130 for 2020. The shortfall for the La Viña service activity is funded by a transfer from the General Fund of the G.S.B.

SSAASA

The Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SSAASA) 6 will be held in Tampa Florida November 19-21, 2021. At this time, it is an in-person event. You can get all the information you need from the Flyer or go to SSAASA6.org. There is a registration fee of \$30.00 and you can register online or by mail. Currently the Tampa International Marriott is fully booked, but they have a block of rooms available at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tampa Airport Westshore. Get your rooms booked by Tuesday October 26. Some of you may have had the opportunity to go to SSAASA 5 right here in North Carolina 2 years ago. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn and hang out with other service minded AA members. I have a fantastic time meeting new people from around the Southern part of the US and hearing their stories and about things that are going on in other Areas. I heard presentations from GSO members, Past Trustees and Delegates, and attended workshops on many of the topics that were relevant to what was going on. There are definitely many things to discuss and workshop this year and I am totally looking forward to going!

Final Conference Reports:

Covid as hit the so many areas in our lives and it has impacted the delivery of the Final Conference Reports. They are working on getting our literature printed and available and the Final Conference reports are included. As soon as Rainer sees an 18-wheeler backing up to his home to deliver the Area 51 allotment of Conference Reports we will prepare them to get them to you all at our next meeting. Meanwhile, the 71st Final Conference Report is available on our Area website in the Delegate's Corner for your reading pleasure. I also can email it to you if you prefer. Just let me know.

Lastly, I just want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work Denise is having to do as our Area Chair. I thought it was hard shutting down and going virtual when the pandemic hit us. It is incredible hard trying to navigate right now with the way things are going. Denise is doing a great job and a lot of her work is a behind the scenes kind of thing with dealing with hotels, documents, and some unruly Zoom Operators. That would be me! Chris, Troy and the volunteers that Area 51 has produced are Rock Stars. Thank you so much Denise!

I also think that it is great how Area 51 can adjust and keep the work of Alcoholics Anonymous going strong in these uncertain times. The message is being carried to the sick and suffering be it in a virtual room or in a meeting room. What we have learned from these past 2 years is that communication is ever a vital need. We need to make sure as officers, coordinators, DCMs and

our most important GSRs that information and communication is not broken. Our unity as a fellowship depends on it. We have learned that we can communicate using technology but it is our responsibility as leaders in Area 51 that information is available to every AA member be it in-person or virtually. The pandemic seems to be lingering on longer than anyone of us expected and we cannot become apathetic to the situation and just give up. How can we bring more AA members into General Service? What can we do to make General Service more appealing to others? Where can we utilize technology or is the older ways of doing things what works best? I was surprised when we held our Assemblies virtually that there were less attendees than an in-person Assembly. I thought we would see more people log in. There wasn't any expense or travel involved and that was what I had always heard was preventing people from coming to our Assemblies. We did see new faces and heard new voices and that was exciting. We held 15 pre-conferences instead of the usual 4. Rainer made himself available for more hours than we have seen in the past. Now the discussions were absolutely great and Rainer was informed, but again I thought why aren't more people taking advantage of this opportunity. There are some areas in our state where internet connectivity is a real issue and we need to recognize that. There is fear about change and people uncomfortable using technology. And then there are those people who just didn't know. These are the people that I am most concerned about. They are interested in what we are doing here but didn't know how to connect with us. I guess I am saying that it is up to us (while using a Past Delegate Homer saying) to inform, involve and inspire. I'm as excited about General Service as I was pre-pandemic. I'm excited about what I see. I'm excited to be here with all of you and I hope you feel the same. If we all carry that excitement and information home to our groups, we will see a new generation of General Service right before our very eyes. I encourage you all to take what you hear here and pass it along to your GSRs so that the GSRs can inform their homegroups. It is up to all of us to make sure no one feels left out of General Service in Area 51.

In Love and Service,
Julie R
Area 51 Alternat Delegate

Delegate's Report

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Area 51 Summer Committee meeting. My name is Rainer LeFebvre, and I'm your alcoholic Delegate. I guess I got spoiled during the isolation of our virtual events. I have some special nerves today, in spite of the pleasure I am finding in being with you again. So, breathe and begin...

The Conference theme for the 71st General Service Conference was "AA in a Time of Change." In the last year and a half, we have seen and heard the need for change, for the need to be adaptive in order to be effective. The pervading question was how to maintain the integrity of our AA message while reimagining our tools, how to preserve our history and legacy while modernizing our presence. In the last year and a half, we have had to wake up, to embrace change, and to question how well and truly we were embodying our principles. Now, after a year and a half of virtual service which has led to real and tangible results, we are again back together. Face to face, live and in person. There is an obvious joy and comfort in this, there is a wonderful opportunity to impact each other, to build together.

But there is also a challenge. We need to maintain our awareness and our focus upon our Principles. I was told that if I didn't remember my last drink, I might not have had it yet. I take the time to remember and reflect upon my broken-ness and upon the struggle and growth of my sobriety. We need to do that with the last 18 months of pandemic experience. After all, our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness.

Our Conference theme has come and gone, but we are still in a time of change. And our mindfulness during these changes, the ways we discuss, the respect we show to minority opinions, our willingness to consider that we are, perhaps, wrong. These are the things which will help us be true reflections of our program and our principles.

I will be using most of my time relaying information and updates from the Quarterly Board meeting. There are threads and commonalities between the updates I will be providing. And I think it necessary to discuss those threads as much as to report on the related activities.

As an example, Julie reported on the financial situation at GSO. It's amazing that there have been nearly \$1 million more group contributions than there were at this point last year. Especially considering that last year made history for the degree of service covered by group contributions. But let's take that news and pause for a quick self-appraisal. Many groups, districts, and Areas are looking at surplus finance. Why? Part of this is due to reduced expense, limited travel and officer reimbursement. Things which will settle back to their traditional degree. But is a part of it also an increase in contributions because of new technology, virtual baskets and Venmo accounts? How do we continue the vibrancy with which we have shouldered our 7th Tradition and our common responsibility for AA service?

General Information from the Office.

Bob W is the new General Manager of the General Service Office. He dove right in and started getting down to business. Early reports confirm that he will be a great asset and will be extremely busy. And our 3 Chairs are Linda Chezem (General Service Board Chair), Jimmy D (AAWS Chair) and Josh E (AA Grapevine Chair).

After more than a year of being conducted remotely from the home of the mailroom Manager, the receiving, sorting, distribution and shipping of mail is again being done at GSO. Hopefully we haven't returned to normal just in time for another lockdown.

Michele Grinberg has been appointed as Trustee Emeritus. Michele was a Class A Trustee and former Chair of the Board. We will be well-served having Michele on the back row at Board meetings, available for her expertise and experience.

The Trustees Nominating Committee will begin virtual interviews for two Class A Trustee vacancies. Virtual interviews will be held over the next two months, with hopes of inviting candidates to the October or January Board weekend. This will probably be January, as we don't know yet whether October's meeting will be virtual or in person.

AA Grapevine

There were 37 resumes submitted for the Non-Trustee Director vacancy at the Grapevine. This is quite a bit above the average interest, and there has been an impressive degree of qualification to these candidates. Pre-screening interviews are taking place, to narrow this down to 5 candidates before the September Board meeting. Trustees Nominating will then make a recommendation at the General Service Board weekend in October.

The Communications Service Department has been busy with a variety of activities related to the development and implementation of the Communication Strategic Initiatives and Action Plan. They are working on videos from our Class A non-alcoholic Trustees, reviewing Google Ad usage and analytics. They are updating the contents and interactive components of the Linked In page, and working to update the Meeting guide app. They have found a new vendor to host and stream audio files. And they are working on pilot development for the AA Podcasts.

Following the 71st General Service Conference, AA Grapevine has been working with the Communication Service Department to develop the podcast program. So far, two installments have been completed and 10 additional programs are underway. Josh E., our Grapevine Board Chairperson, and Coree H., a Non-Trustee Director, completed the first two segments. The working title is "The Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour." There are two sub-groups meeting regularly under a larger umbrella. There is the Creative working group, and the Equipment-Logistics working group.

The creative group is focused on exploring different themes, ideas, and formats. They are also building lists of risks and questions, and are developing guidelines to bring to the larger group. As part of researching podcast ideas and topics, they are considering common aspects like music, recurring segments, translation options, hosting roles, and integrating Grapevine and AAWS audio assets. The last meeting began exploring a theme related to the Covid impact on AA.

The Equipment-Logistics team is taking those ideas and researching costs, logistic concerns, talent and voice needs, etc. They are reviewing budget considerations, discussing asset availability, and further defining the responsibilities of this team. They have identified needs for project management and several other administrative responsibilities. Their findings are being consolidated into a report to be presented to the larger team.

Chris C. will begin serving as the Publisher of AA Grapevine on August 15th. Chris has been in this position on an interim basis since Albin retired. There was a wide-reaching search, with many candidates interviewed.

The Grapevine Instagram account went live on July 7th. 2,700 people followed the Grapevine in the first 3 weeks. If you have an Instagram account, please go look at the Grapevine page. The content and postings are interesting.

AA World Services

There continue to be some printing delays related to the pandemic. There are not the supply shortages which led to previous delays, but two of our key printers have been impacted by serious Covid outbreaks. Communications have been sent to Intergroups and Central Offices, as well as postings on the webstore. These delays should be short-term, and to the best of my knowledge there are no out of stock materials at the moment.

The AA Service Manual has been revised and redesigned for the 2021-23 edition. Digital versions should be available on 11/5, and the print version should be available on 11/26. There will no longer be a large print option, and there will no longer be the smaller sized version. The only printing will be the 8.5 x 11 inch size, and they will sell at a \$4 cost.

Several new pamphlets are proceeding to the printer. This includes "Hispanic Women in AA," and "Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions." The "Hispanic Women in AA" pamphlet comes on the heels of a new AA Grapevine book "Mujeres En AA" and shows a really exciting focus upon Spanish speaking women. I think this is the first time that the AA Grapevine has printed Spanish-language material directly and not as a translation of English content. The "Experience Has Taught Us" pamphlet is the revision of the Twelve Traditions Illustrated pamphlet. Please remember that the original pamphlet will continue to be available.

Some literature release timelines: A reformatted softcover 12 & 12 and the pamphlet “Faith Healers Ask about Alcoholics Anonymous (Formerly members of the clergy ask about AA) are both now available. The Final Conference Report is available digitally, with printing to complete on 8/31. I’ll have those available at the Friday Committee meeting before our Fall Assembly. The two new pamphlets will be available in September, along with a new video “Your GSO and AA Grapevine.” The first sample texts for the Plain & Simple Big Book will also be submitted to the Board for review in September.

In October, there will be CD sets of the Big Book featuring new audio recordings. “Our Great Responsibility” will be available as an e-book, in English and in Spanish. And in December, Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza will be available. This is the newly completed translation of the Experience, Strength, and Hope book.

Pending the completion of editorial review and translation, there will also be a revision of the pamphlet “Self-support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” which will have the revised text on suggested contributions. Corrections Material is being revised to replace the word inmate, and those will be released on a rolling schedule as revisions are completed. And revised AA Preamble items (placards, parchments and pamphlet content) will be available as reprints of these items are needed.

The Publishing department has begun the process of adapting Conference approved literature into video format. The pamphlet “Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers” is being made into a QSL (I don’t know what that is) and ASL (American Sign Language) videos.

International licensing and translation of AA literature continues to happen at a fast pace. The Big Book has been translated 72 times, with 27 additional translations in process. 19 of these are new translations and 8 are revisions and re-translations. The 12 & 12 has 52 approved translations, with 3 more in process. Daily Reflections has 38 approved translations with 2 in process. Living Sober has 37 approved translations with 5 in process. And AA Comes of Age has 19 approved translations with 2 pending.

Trustees’ Literature

There has been a lot of discussion on literature Advisory Actions. The 4th edition re-translation of Alcoholicos Anonimos is challenging because of the diversity of the Spanish speaking population. GSO’s Spanish editor will be an important resource, and the importance of participation from AA members has also been noted. Amalia will be establishing a work group to lead the implementation of this project. Amalia is a native Spanish speaker, has been an ACM for 3 years, and has recently shown effective guidance and coordination in developing the pamphlet “Hispanic Women in AA.” I am particularly excited about the plans to include a diverse group of AA members from the target audience who can bring a variety of ethnic, geographic, and dialect perspectives to the project. As with the 5th Edition of the Big Book, I will let you know as soon as I hear about a call for personal stories.

Trustees Literature discussed the Advisory Action to develop a draft version of the Big Book translated into plain and simple language which is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible. The timeline for completion of this project is expected to last several years. Initial efforts will focus upon three chapters of interest, such as Chapter Five of the Big Book. I believe that there will be some presentation of content at the October Board meeting. Carolyn, who was our Spring Assembly Guest, will be chairing the subcommittee charged with this project.

Trustees Literature also discussed the Literature Committee Consideration to bring a feasibility report to the 72nd GSC on the development of workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Early discussions are focused upon the possible creation of an individualized workbook to accompany the Big Book. There have also been discussions about developing a contemporary and comprehensive new workbook to study the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts. A subcommittee will continue to explore options for the potential development of a workbook for the AA program.

Online Groups

Concerning the participation and listing of online-only groups, the Trustees Committee has been discussing the Conference Advisory Actions. These actions were to “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 supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as “International Correspondence Meetings.” The Conference also authorized the General Service Board to “form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the US/Canada General Service Structure.” A committee has been formed and there is acknowledgement of the imperfection of these Conference actions. Early feedback from online-only groups has expressed some discomfort in joining pre-existing in-person districts and areas.

The Group Services desk has received a high volume of communication pertaining to online groups. There are many concerns with the practicality of how listings will work both at the office and locally with registrars. Group Services is part of the GSO workgroup recently formed to help implement the Advisory Action. Group services has been meeting with OIAA monthly. Most of the established groups in OIAA that participate in the joint meeting prefer a virtual area or virtual district, and feel constrained by the current Advisory Action. They also feel like a virtual DCM or virtual Delegate would understand them, as some have never been to an in-person meeting.

Equitable Distribution

The Equitable Distribution of Workload process has begun, on a 3-year trial basis from 2022-2024. The Trustees' Conference Committee will be providing updates to the Policy/Admissions Conference Committee throughout the trial period. I have copies of the new Agenda Item Submission Form, so please see me if you are interested in submitting an Agenda Item for the 72nd GSC. The deadline for submitting Agenda Items is September 15th. Evaluation of the process will be very important, as there will be a lot of learning opportunities as we adjust our tradition timeline. A subcommittee including Beau B., Cathi C., Jimmy D., and Carolyn W. has been appointed to focus on trial evaluation.

Equitable Distribution of Workload seems like a really important solution to several recent ailments. Aside from offering opportunity to balance the workload between Conference Committees, where agendas can range from 8 to 33 items, there is an opportunity to reframe the presentation of background. Thorough reporting and information presentation is important. But I at least am concerned that much of the vital information is being obscured because of the volume of information. Over the last 3 years, we have seen Conference background material grow from 700 pages to over 1500 pages. There is additional background for each Conference Committee as well. According to our SE Regional Trustee, there was over 1000 pages of background for the July Board meeting.

Some of the growing number of pages is a matter of clearing the backlog generated from the pandemic and the abbreviated virtual 70th GSC. All of it is a testament to the dedication of our trusted servants, and their commitment to offering their best to Alcoholics Anonymous. However, if the Equitable Distribution of Workload is able to consolidate and simply some of the background material, I believe the Conference will benefit from that distillation. But hey, I always preferred distilled things!

Two Conference Committees made considerations to explore thread-based forums and new communication models to improve communication between the Board and the Fellowship. This has been discussed and the decision was made to take no action. There are concerns about the additional demands on time that can develop, and the existing time commitments that the Trustees already bear. The committee also noted that the Communication Services department is exploring ways for the Office to communicate directly with the Fellowship. This could be done via the website, emails, podcasts, etc.

I'll get back to this later in my report. But the motivation behind the committee considerations was to move away from an email model where different people receive different degrees of information and detail. With an email model, access to information is based upon activity and participation. And it's a lateral communication between two parties. We liked the idea of communication as a community resource, where the same information was available in an accessible way, to everyone at the same time.

CPC / Treatment & Accessibilities

The Trustees committee will be developing a focus group of past and present Class A trustees and other mental health professionals to assist with developing a pamphlet for mental health professionals. A progress report will be presented at October's Board meeting.

The Linked In page has been a topic of conversation and an area of progress. Information has been posted about the recent Class A trustee vacancy. And the Trustees Committee has requested that the Class A service position language remain on the page.

Corrections

A demo of the new Corrections Correspondence Service database was provided to the Trustees' Committee. This is a new, state of the art digital application which will enable matching persons in custody to members on the outside with speed and efficiency. Matches can be made based upon distance between members rather than simply by region. This should increase matching possibilities, and will help expand the program to match Canadian members. The new database is scheduled to launch in September 2021.

The Corrections Desk shared that a collaboration with AA Grapevine to offer free Grapevine and La Vina subscriptions to persons in custody has been implemented. I will be reaching out to the service desk to get details about how members should request their subscription. This is a really exciting service, especially given the ongoing impact of Covid restrictions and the limited access that we have had to conduct meetings in Correction Facilities.

Trustees' Finance

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve a re-forecasted budget, reflecting the strength of the financial picture which Julie presented for you. The revised budget reflects gross literature sales of \$11.4 million, contribution revenue of \$10 million, and a bottom-line surplus of \$667,000. The reforecast was approved. The financial picture is also allowing for the replenishment of the reserve fund to begin. \$250,000 was approved for immediate transfer back into the Reserve fund, after last year's draw-downs. As of June 30, the reserve fund balance was \$12.5 million. This figure is prior to the repayment, and covers 8.41 months of calculated expense based upon the original 2021 budget.

International Convention & Regional Forums

Talley Management was present at the Board meeting to begin discussions around the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. There have been so many changes in the travel and events industry that it's hard to get detailed information. There is still uncertainty about the Pandemic and Covid variants. So more to be revealed.

As Julie said, there will be a virtual Pan-Continental Special Forum on December 11th. Great way to celebrate Bill W's sobriety date. Planning had begun for this as a special forum targeting certain international and US/Canada remote communities. The special forum was being designed to reach out to the fellowship in remote communities in the far extremes of Canada, South America, and Alaska. The great thing about a virtual forum is that when anyone, anywhere, wants to attend a virtual forum they can. Mark your calendars, I hope many of you will attend.

Public Information

The Trustees Committee discussed the Conference Committee Consideration that a Power Point presentation be developed for PI and CPC committees for the purpose of providing shared experience on how to present about AA at non-AA events. A progress report will be available in the next few months.

There was also a Committee Consideration that GSO Publishing conduct editorial updates to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity." These updates would reflect current technology terminologies and service resources at the next printing of the pamphlet. The Trustees Committee also noted that more substantive changes may need to be considered to reflect a more current depiction of how members – as members – utilize social media in service committee efforts, at the group level, and as a Fellowship.

Just a few more things in wrapping this up. The first is the AA Preamble. As of July 1st, the letters received by the AA Grapevine were 3 to 1 against the change to the AA Preamble. Correspondence to the General Service Board and AAWS similarly oppose the change. Some of the negative reaction is a reaction to change, an attachment to history. Some of it fear about where things will go from here. What changes will follow these changes? Are we greasing the skids into a degree of political correctness which will compromise the depth and weight of our message? Some of them are just concerns about the awkward cadence of Fellowship of People.

Personally, I believe that the biggest reason that so many members are having a bad reaction is because of what a poor job we have done communicating about the change. The message is not that we have a revised Preamble. The message is that there was change needed, and action was taken. The message is that there were alcoholics in need of help, arriving in AA and being made to feel excluded and unwelcomed by the language of our Preamble. And so we removed the issue. There are no greased skids. We are not going to move through 20 years of agenda items to become a Fellowship of Men and Women and Boys and Girls and transgender people and sis-gender folks and non-binary individuals and non-gendered persons. Alcoholics Anonymous is not a political organization, has no opinion on outside issues, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. And gender identity is just another outside issue. You are a member of Alcoholics Anonymous when you say that you are. If you are an alcoholic, regardless of any other issues that you might have, regardless of any identity you might possess, the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous should be open and welcoming. This is the communication that needs to happen around the Preamble revision. There is but one requirement for membership. Gender and identity have nothing to do with it.

To groups wanting to know if they need to read the revised Preamble, the answer is clearly no. Groups are autonomous, and for their purpose there is but one Ultimate Authority. If they want to be an AA group that doesn't read the AA Preamble, that is their right. But my encouragement would be for that group to let our Traditions be their guide. To have a full and informed discussion about the issue, and to consider the principles, the things which really matter, which our Traditions are designed to protect.

At the beginning of every Assembly, we read Bernard Smith's address "Why we need a Conference." Usually, this is a reading reserved for Past Delegates, but I'll take the liberty to quote a bit of it. "We need [a conference] to ensure that the doors of the halls of AA 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." That is also the reason why we needed a revision to the Preamble.

The theme for next year's Conference is AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service. This is just a bit of personal perspective, but I often feel when I leave my home that I was walking out into a splintering world. Public opinions are divided, people are polarized, driven by selfish pursuits, and dominated by a proud assumption that they know what's best for others. Alcoholics Anonymous is my safe haven, and I have received great gifts from my membership. Beyond my sobriety, which will always be my first gratitude, the great gift has been purpose. Half a step further, it is a primary purpose. Alcoholics Anonymous is the place where I can be free of my own proud assumptions, where I can act as a member in good standing. We are all familiar with our words. "Ask each day in your morning meditation what you can do for the man who still suffers." If the Alcoholics Anonymous I live in is to escape the politicizing and splintering that I see in the world I live in, then I think we need to go further. Because it's not always the man who still suffers. Sometimes she's a woman, and sometimes they are non-binary. If we are to be unified in love and service, we need to unify on our common problem and on our common solution. "Every AA group is a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose." "This we owe to AA unity, to place our common welfare first, to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend on lives, and the lives of those to come."

My last thoughts are about communication. The majority of the responses that I have received about Conference actions have been “why didn’t my group get to talk about this? Why didn’t we know?” We have both a right and a responsibility for participation. Over the last two years, we have held 28 Pre-Conference events to discuss the Conference Agendas. Many of this year’s items had been discussed for multiple years. But it’s hard to participate in an opportunity if the opportunity isn’t communicated. Our role in General Service is to be channels of communication. I do not know the format for it, but I do want to obligate myself to better communication. The Board reviewed the Committee Consideration to explore new communication models and voted to take no action. But I believe that we need to do something to standardize the delivery of information. So I will be working on mechanics, and will begin making frequent postings to the Delegate’s Corner on our website.

I have also heard that we as Delegates were trying to fly agenda items through under the dark of night in the midst of a global pandemic. Our whole service structure is based upon trust. We move at the speed of trust. We receive delegated authority from groups on a basis of trust. And we act of the basis of trust, that God through our group conscience will guide us and keep us. That having a New Employer, He would provide what we need if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. I do want to own my regret for group’s that felt they weren’t given an adequate opportunity to participate in the discussion. I do feel that I might have outsmarted myself in planning this year’s Pre-Conferences, discussing the agenda along Conference Committee lines, and failing to schedule districts to attend certain events. I did not have a problem exercising my Right of Decision. I did not have a problem feeling informed about the issues and principles on the Conference Agenda, or the feelings of North Carolina’s membership. But I have had problems with many of the reactions and expressed surprise from our membership about the Conference Actions. Please help me do better, to communicate better, and to better involve our Fellowship in the issues facing AA.

Thank you for your time, patience, and faces. Showing up is the most important spiritual principle in Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Love and Service,
Rainer LeFebvre
Area 51 Delegate

Corrections Report

- ☐ All NC prisons are still closed to AA meetings. I understand some jails are now hosting AA meetings. I am specifically aware that Carteret County is allowing jail meetings. Hopefully this trend will continue but the recent COVID increase may delay re-openings a bit longer. Vaccinations and masks are being required.
- ☐ Hampton Inn in Southern Pines has agreed to host the 2022 Freedom From Bondage Conference on March 11-13, 2022.
- ☐ There will be a Twelve Traditions Workshop in Sanford on October 16, 2021 and Corrections will be provided a table for a display.
- ☐ Tri County Corrections Committee is hosting a workshop in Raleigh on October 23, 2021. They also report that Wake County Detention Center has agreed to begin hosting AA meetings and volunteers are being requested to sign up and submit forms for the required background check.

Kevin L., Area 51 Corrections Coordinator

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.
720 People Registered for the Convention this year
\$1,530 Contribution
17 - States

I would like to start off by thanking all the people that worked **very** hard to make our Convention this year the best that it could possibly be considering the limitations that Covid has brought to our lives.

We had to create the Convention mostly from scratch, which required a tremendous amount of unexpected work for all the People on the Committee.

Not only did these wonderful people do what was asked of them, but many of them far exceeded any expectations. For this reason, I would like to not only Thank each of them myself, but I would like to ask each of you to take some time to Thank anyone that you Know for all their Time and hard work.

Alana E. - Durham
Lizzy T. - Apex
Chuck A. - Raleigh
Kimberly M. - Greenboro
Rachel M. - Salisbury
Kristin R. - Greenboro
Donna D. Charlotte
Annette K. - Hendersonville

Kenneth C -Castle Hayne

Cheryl L. - Flat Rock

Mike B. - Hillsville

Kevin K. – Durham

Keith M. – Morrisville

• **5 Speaker Meetings**

• **2 English Workshops**

• **1 Spanish Workshop**

o Eva M. and Lupe A.

• **Old Timers Panels**

• **Sobriety Count Down**

• **Many wonderful Marathon Meetings**

• **We even had a couple of Yoga and Pilates Class**

I would also like to thank all the people that were not officially on the Committee, but without their help we would not have been able to accomplish even half of what we did.

I still have a hard time believing how truly incredible The Zoom Ops Team was.

Zoom Team

They spent untold hours

• Showing us the Least Confusing way to have a Convention on Zoom

• They **Very** patiently not only explained, but walking each Speaker, Chair, panelist and Reader through what they needed to do in order to successfully be a part of the Convention during multiple practice sessions.

• With out being asked, they made schedules to show on the screen to keep people informed about up coming events

• And they kept us entertained in-between the different events with AA jokes and their quick wit.

Chris G. – Fuquay Varina

Ann N. - Raleigh

Troy M. - Raleigh

Lorre G. - Raleigh

Julie R. – Raleigh

Interpreter

Rick L - Our Area Interpreter was another person that exceeded that was asked of him.

• He Attended the many practice sections that we had

• Translated the Fliers and other information into Spanish

• Interpreted for all Main events

• Found the Chair and Panelist for the Spanish Workshop

• Then Translated the Spanish Workshop into English.

I was especially grateful for this, because it allowed me to experience a little bit of what it might be like for Spanish-speaking members to be a part of an Area event when you are so depended on another person to understand and be a part of much of what we do in General Service.

Area 51 is truly blessed to have him be willing to share so much of himself and his time in our Area.

I would also like to Thank

• **Ramona H.** Charlotte

• **Ali S. of Charlotte.**

For making our dance so much fun

Neither of them were originally on the Committee, but once we realized that we were going to be on Zoom once again, they brought all their experience and joy to the Convention so that could have some much needed fun while we danced away together in our Living Rooms.

Very few things of the experiences in my life have given me as much Gratitude. It was truly an honor to have worked with this Group of people.

Elizabeth P., State Convention Chair

Budget & Finance Subcommittee Report

Our committee has been meeting monthly via Zoom.

- We have worked closely with Stevie D to review the Area 51 2022 Budget and ensure that it is ready for review at the Fall Assembly.

- We worked on the wording for the GSR Assistance Fund Agenda Item. It is our hope that the wording has been streamlined to ensure that it is simple and addresses the need to allow all to attend the Assembly regardless of a group's financial situation.
- We have put forth an Agenda Item to make the Area 51 line item for the Zoom Account to be a permanent line item as this has shown itself to be a worthwhile expense for communication.
- We have reviewed the process and timelines for the Surplus Fund Suggestions. We want to make sure that it is clear that the Surplus Fund is \$6,249.00 and is separate from the \$11,725.00 contribution that was received from the AA Women's Conference. Suggestions for disbursement of those funds can be submitted using the same process that is used for the surplus funds. The only exception being that they do not have a deadline of 31Oct2021.
- Our Area Chair, Denise has shared a document that outlines the process and timing for Surplus. We strongly suggest that you share this with your GSRs because we want everyone to have an opportunity to contribute suggestions for spending the surplus within Area 51. Our committee has reviewed previous advisory actions to get an idea for how surplus funds were spent in the past
(I will reference highlighted examples of the past advisory actions that are on page 2 & 3 of this report.)
- It is not our role to suggest how the funds are being spent – just to help generate ideas.
 - The deadline for surplus funds suggestions is 31Oct2021.
 - Winter Committee Meeting - B&F to present agenda item
 - Spring Assembly - need agenda item for a vote
- We have reviewed the emails from Growth & Maintenance regarding asset Inventory. We will be continuing to review the asset inventory list document and how we can move forward with this.

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

- **EXAMPLES**

Past advisory actions for surplus funds.

- Between 1977 and 1987 it appears there were no surplus to distribute however, I saw several one off expenditures which would coincide with the new proposed budget but not be included. My guess is these expenditures were from surplus funds. Because different individuals wrote these entries there is no consistency in the format.
- The two most common expenditures were to purchase tech equipment and to increase prudent reserves (or it was given directly to committees) with tech being the number one item. The GSO was given surplus funds occasionally but most of the time they were kept within Area 51.
- Below are examples but I can't be certain that sometimes the money was allocated without designating it as surplus.
- 1987 Approved Committee recommendation to contribute \$3000.00 from checking account to GSO.
- 1988 Unanimously approved Committee recommendation to purchase IBM XT Personal Computer system and Rapid File software for use by Area Secretary/Treasurer. Total purchase price \$2,635.47.
- 1991 Dispersal of funds from the 1991 NC State Convention to be made to AI-Anon World Services.
- 1992 That surplus funds from the 1991 North Carolina State Convention (\$3300) be allocated as follows:
 - 70% retained in NC for Area Services.
 - 30% be sent to GSO.
- 1993 Dispersal of 1992 NC State Convention funds as follows:
 - 14% to AI-Anon World Service of NC;
 - 50% of balance to GSO;
 - 50% of balance to Area 51.
- 2000 That Area 51 retain all surplus from all area sponsored conferences and conventions.
- 2001 Re-establish the Property and Acquisitions fund that was depleted in 1999 at \$2000.00 for the purchase of additional software and computer upgrades. and allocate some funds for other needs as they may arise
- 2002 Area 51 make a one-time purchase for the Area 51 Archives of the following items. Computer, printer, and scanner (this is a one-time purchase). \$2,500.00
- 2003 use of surplus Area 51 increase our General Fund Prudent Reserve to six months operating expenses
- 2003 policy on surplus. At the February Committee meeting and the Spring Assembly of the first year of each Delegate term, the Area Committee and Assembly will be made aware of any General Fund Surplus as of December 31 of the

previous year. All groups and committees will be invited to submit requests and suggestions for use toward fulfilling our primary purpose in Area 51. These will then be presented for approval at subsequent Assemblies. In keeping with the seventh tradition, any money without a designated purpose by the end of the Spring Assembly of the second year of the same Delegate term will then be forwarded to GSO.

- 2010 Move the \$800.90 surplus from 2010 to be applied to the property & acquisition fund for the purpose of purchasing computers. The Area is in need of 3 replacements in 2012.
- 2011 That up to \$7,260.87 be allocated from the Area 51 2011-2012 Budget Surplus for the CFC Coordinator to purchase Grapevine subscriptions, Big Books, and "AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate" booklets for prisons in North Carolina.
- That up to \$750.00 be allocated from the Area 51 2011-2012 Budget Surplus for the Budget & Finance Subcommittee Chair to purchase a projector and viewing screen.
- That up to \$1000.00 be allocated from the Area 51 2011-2012 Budget Surplus for the Archivist to record oral histories from AA Old-timers throughout North Carolina.
- That up to \$2000.00 be allocated from the Area 51 2011-2012 Budget Surplus for the Archivist to purchase equipment needed to digitize the Area 51 Archives collection.

Paul M., Budget & Finance Subcommittee Chair

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 State Convention being virtual, this Committee meeting is the first in person event that I have been able to attend, and I am ready to sell. Normally, the Committee meetings have featured a very limited inventory, but I have most of the inventory here and am ready to "thin the herd." I'll never get it down to where it will fit in the Camaro, but I happen to know a guy who runs a couple of rental car locations.

There are some items in particular that I want to bring some attention to because they are currently out of stock through AAWS and I have a supply on hand-

Public Information Kit- I have 2.

Group Handbook- I have 1.

Corrections Kit- I have 6.

I also have a limited number of Service Manuals in both English and Spanish available.

There is new piece of literature out- A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous. I brought 20 with me, 2 are sold already, so get them while they're hot!

A communication slip up led to our writing workshop being pushed back, date to be determined, but we are looking at some time after the first of the year.

I will be taking the show on the road to the Practice These Principles workshop in Sanford on October 16th (they promised to feed me). And I am looking for any opportunity to attend workshops or events in the Area.

In AA Love and Service.

Pat B., Area 51 Literature Coordinator

Grapevine Report

My name is Brooks Downs, I am an alcoholic and your Area 51 Grapevine Coordinator. Since our last gathering there has been much excitement with the Grapevine!! Namely a historical change to the AA Preamble allowing for our fellowship to be more gender neutral. The July edition of AA's International Journal was the first printing that included the newly revised AA Preamble, which starts as "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people ..." Another milestone for the Grapevine is that we now have a presence on Instagram!! You can search [alcoholicsanonymous_gv](#) and begin to 'follow' and each day you will get to read the Grapevine daily quote.

In being of service to Area 51 I got to design an Instagram banner with the help of one of my AA friends which will be used at events to let our fellow AA travelers know they can join in the Instagram fun also!! On June 19th the 'Grapestompers' of the Raleigh Intergroup held a Workshop celebrating Grapevine and La Vina, where both speakers' stories had been published in their respective magazines. Rick came to interpret for us and, with plenty of warmth, food and book sales it made for a wonderful afternoon!! The Raleigh Grapestompers have another event planned in October, more details to come!. on July 1st I got invited to speak at the three legacy group, Primary Purpose, in Southern Pines where they had a table ready for me to set up my literature and displays.

Looking forward to this Fall and being able to attend an event in September in District 71 and two in October in the Raleigh area.

Thanks for letting me be of service!!
Brooks D.,
A51 GV Coordinator

Archivist 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 in her report.

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. If you have ideas for people we can get Oral Histories from please email me @ archivist@aanorthcarolina.org – people with 35 years or more sobriety

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.

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 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.

Site Investigation Subcommittee Report

Hello friends! It is an honor to serve you as the Area 51 Site Investigation Chair. We have been working hard to make selections for Area 51 events in 2023-2025. We had sent out 44 requests and received 5 bids back. Although a low return this year, we were quite pleased with 4 of the 5 bids. We took into consideration room rates, coffee, av equipment rentals. We also looked hard at the room block requirement. Some bids had no room block requirement and some had up to 90% room block. All of these considerations helped us to make our top choices which you will see in our motion that we bring forth today.

Lindsey H., Site Investigation Chair

Treatment Facilities Report

1. Follow up on the status of ADATC's statewide, most are back to "no in person" as per Federal guidelines. 05/27/2021
2. I had some request from Three Treatment Centers outside our Area, seeking (BTG) information for residents returning to our state. I was able to get these requests coordinated with (BTG) volunteers. 05/29/2021
3. Follow up on requests for information, from Five Districts for contact information and Treatment / Detox status. 05/29/2021
4. I gave a talk about being involved as a Treatment Facility Representatives, as a service position in a Homegroup / District, for the "El Cerrito Fellowship" in California via Zoom. 05/30/2021
5. Setup Treatment Facility display at the (Pitt Co. Group) for the Founders Day event. Gave 25 books to an AA member for a local Treatment Center library and signed up 8 volunteers for (BTG) 06/10/2021.
6. Updated the (BTG) contact list. The digitized version is not completed as I had planned, but still working on it. 06/20/2021
7. Follow up on Two request for Treatment and meeting information, forwarded to me from our Chairlady. One in June and the other in July. 07/12/2021
8. I had Two request from Amy B. (TFC GSO), for information about recovery material for Two area Treatment Facilities. I am still waiting for one administrator to reply to my email. 07/14/2021
9. I have attended the Bridging The Gap Workshop Weekend (BGTWW) and I am still receiving the (BTG) newsletter. There is a Bid form posted for 2022, if your Intergroup/District/Area or a Committee is interested in hosting the workshop in 2022 please fill this form @ coordinator@btgwww.org / webmaster@btgwww.org . I will submit a printed copy with the contact info to the Chair along with the flyer for the 31st Annual Event.

10. I did a presentation to a local church that's affiliated with UNC, Duke and NCCU's Campus Recovery program about starting an AA meeting at their facility. 08/15/2021
11. I am still replying to email and phone calls from local groups and individuals, concerning meetings, volunteering and the current status for Treatment and Detox's. I have completed all but one item from the previous report.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your area's Treatment Facilities Coordinator,
Stanley Hurlston,
stanleyhurlston1@gmail.com
(919) 923-7642

Spanish Language Interpreter 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 Spring Committee Meeting & Assembly in May of this year, I attended two events in an official capacity and two that were not. Being invited to do anything for AA, as you know, is always a real honor and privilege.

ATTENDED:

Jun 19 – GV workshop at Lake Wheeler Park to translate for districts 5 & 30.
Jul 15-18 – 72nd NC AA State Convention (first time translating on Zoom, it was an adventure and a lot of fun).

May 28 – Spoke at "Easy Does It" Swansboro's monthly eating meeting.
Aug 8 – Spoke at District's 02's "Smoked Butt contest" picnic in Jacksonville. I don't have to tell you how much fun that was!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct 23 – GV workshop in Raleigh to translate from districts 5 & 30.
Feb 12-13 – CPC/PI conference to help translate on Zoom.

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

PI Report

Hello everyone,

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. Since the Spring Assembly, I have attended a couple of events, and I have been invited to attend a few events in the future.

Our CPC Coordinator Jon and I continued our CPC/PI "Synergy In Service" Workshop Series on June 27th with a workshop dedicated to how to use conference-approved literature. It was well attended and we had great discussions. We were to have another workshop last weekend, but unfortunately it had to be postponed due to an emergency. We hope to have another date for you soon. We will send it out to the CPC/PI email list and have it posted on the Area website when details are finalized.

I have also attended a planning session for a new CPC/PI committee starting up in District 12. This is a committee that has not been active in that district for several years, so it is exciting to see it grow. I will be attending the Burke County Recovery Rally on September 11th in Morganton with the new local coordinator. I have also been invited and planning to attend a conference on the Traditions on October 16th in Sanford.

If any of your districts, groups, or members have any questions regarding PI service work, or have any events, please don't hesitate to contact me. Like almost everyone I am watching the state of the pandemic closely, but for now I am available to travel to in-person events. Of course, I am also happy to attend online meetings and events as well.

Yours in Love & Service,

Marty McGee
Area 51 Public Information Coordinator
pi@aanorthcarolina.org
828-221-6264

Growth & Maintenance Subcommittee 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 7 initiatives. Each of these 7 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: In the hands of the Budget and Finance Committee where an equipment service/purchase Calendar will be put into place.

Item 2: Area 51 inventory: The inventory questions have been revised and reviewed by the Area Chair and G&M Committee with a few tweaks still to be completed. It is the goal of this initiative to have the questions, guidelines, and format completed by the fall committee meeting.

Item 3: IG/CO 2021- The IG/CO Directory was sent to the Website Committee so Area Coordinators can maintain contact with Intergroups and Central Offices in Area 51. Providing a channel of communication between Area 51 and local regions within Area 51 to exchange pertinent information and events relevant to AA General Services and AA members. Primarily in regions of our Area where the Intergroup or Central Office represents multiple districts. This includes, where applicable, CPC, PI, Corrections, Treatment Centers (H&I), Grapevine/ LaVina, Literature, Website (Technology), and Accessibility.

Item 4: P-3 Manual updates are ongoing per the change form on the Area 51 Website. Post Assembly P3 Manual Updates will be recommended by an Area Officer who is designated by the Area Chair. The changes will be implemented by the G&M committee.

Item 5: G&M Area 51 Website Sub-Page-Keith M. and Kavarus are working on the G&M 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- We are still reviewing the option for a new Area 51 Technology Committee.

Item 8- Voting via Mobile App- We appreciate the proposal sent by District 31 to our Area Chair. Recognizing the time and energy D-31 put into their proposal, rest assured, it was researched thoroughly and discussed at length however we do not recommend implementing the voting app at this time.

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

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. Also special thanks to the chair, Denise, and alternate delegate, Julie, for assisting with the contact us requests!

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). If you do not see your local meetings in the list then please have your district webmaster contact me at 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 have a districts and 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.triangleavirtual.com/> and they are now syncing. We have added 4 more districts and one intergroup. We have had some difficulty with a couple districts syncing, but we will try to work through that. Webmasters, please contact us to sync your meetings or at least add your website as a link.

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 or are no longer used to reduce costs. We are considering other hosting options. 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. I've recently enabled reCAPTCHA to help secure our forms from spam. We are listening 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

By clicking on the Events link in the top dropdown 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/>. Old events can also be searched if you need to reference them.

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. We have at least 328 subscribers at the moment.

Form Changes

We are in the process of modifying the Group Change forms as well as trying to streamline the contribution process. We have added back the District Change form. We have also added an ability to request the district passwords so that our AA members can access password-locked documents. Special thanks to Sue and Nancy for their efforts with handling these requests!

Contacts

We have made a few updates to 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 and copy me at webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org or contact us through the website. We will follow up as soon as possible and make changes as reasonably as possible.

Thanks!

Website Subcommittee Report

The website subcommittee has been working as a well-oiled machine. I would like to thank the Webmaster Kavaruss, all of the members of the subcommittee, as well as those tireless volunteers such as Troy, Rick and Everett, among others. This has been an energizing group to work amongst. We meet on Zoom the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7p. Feel free to reach out to join any meeting, and lend assistance if you feel so moved.

We keep track of the requests that are coming in, and the form requests, using Microsoft ToDo. As a team, we have been answering the Contact-Us requests, with the Chair handling the non-technical queries, and all other queries being answered by the members of the subcommittee. One of the more common requests we have seen via the request forms is that of GSR and

other AA members wanting access to information that required a password to view. Examples of such information are upcoming agenda items, schedules, and minutes. We have also had several requests to add district and YPAA-related events on the website for visibility to a larger audience.

To resolve these pain points, we have created two agenda items. The first is to place the assembly meeting notices, agenda, schedule (without background information) on the website such that they can be accessed by any AA member, without login credentials. This will spread the good news of what the Area is discussing, to foster communication.

The second is to allow the website to list district-sponsored, intergroup-sponsored, and YPAA-related events on our calendar of upcoming events. This will allow the Area to promote events of interest to the AA members, in a world that has become smaller with the introduction of Zoom.

The third agenda item we have brought is to make the Website Scope, Composition and Policy document match how the subcommittee can function to be of maximum service to the area. Any changes to this document need to be approved by the AA membership, and we would like to improve that language, in addition to placing that information in our P3 document.

Finally, we have been asked by the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee to look at other technology areas from which the Area can benefit, such as Cloud storage, Zoom support, Technology Tiger team, among others. We have made a proposal for what the Website Subcommittee can absorb, and to that end, we have requested to add the position of Technical Advisor to the Website Subcommittee, so that any knowledge gained and research performed can span the regular two-year rotation cycle. In the light of not overwhelming the agenda, we will bring up this change in a later Assembly.

In summary, the website subcommittee has been very busy, and we have had a very productive year. If the pandemic has brought some pain to this fellowship, it has brought to light how powerful technology can be, and how well this fellowship can harness that technology for good.

Sue H., Website Subcommittee Chair