

NORTH CAROLINA
General Service Committee
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

SECRETARY
PO Box 470275
CHARLOTTE, NC 28247

SPRING ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18-19, 2022
THE HILTON CHARLOTTE UNIVERSITY PLACE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28262

#	Main Motions	Action Taken	Page
1	Approve the Minutes of the 2021 Fall Assembly as published.	Passed Without Opposition	2
2	Approval of the 1st Quarter 2022 Financial Statement.	Passed Without Opposition	2
3	The Area 51 2019-2020 Budget Surplus of \$6,249 be allocated to the Area 51 Archivist for purchase of fireproof cabinetry for Area Archives.	Passed With Substantial Unanimity	4
4	That the standing "Website Subcommittee" be able to revise their internal structure, policies and procedures to match how the subcommittee feels it can best function. Any policy changes that affect what information is visible or available in various sections of the website will be first vetted and approved by the Area Committee. Any changes will be reported to the membership and documented in the Website Subcommittee policies and procedures document.	Passed Without Opposition	5
5	In order to promote an informed group conscience, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate be able to attend any and all preconferences held in Area 51, whether in-person or virtual. This is to discuss General Service Conference agenda items, when hosted by Districts in the various regions of Area 51.	Passed With Substantial Unanimity	3-4
6	In order to promote an informed Fellowship, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate attend post-Conference events annually to discuss the actions and procedures of the General Service Conference. These events would be hosted by the Districts in the Western, Central and Eastern regions of Area 51, and by the Spanish Linguistic Districts. Additional virtual events may also be scheduled.	Failed Because Of Lack Of Substantial Unanimity	8
7	To approve the Chair's appointment of Linda N. of Mount Airy to complete the 2021-2022 term as Area 51 Public Information Coordinator.	Passed Without Opposition	12
8	To approve the Chair's appointment of Alana E. of Durham as Area 51 Convention Chair for the period of 2023-2024.	Passed Without Opposition	14
9	To approve the Chair's appointment of Lizzy T. of Durham as Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2023-2024.	Passed Without Opposition	14

Call to Order and Serenity Prayer

Denise M., Area Chair, opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Welcome / Opening Remarks

Denise welcomed everyone in attendance and recognized first time attendees.

Reading

Denise announced the Assembly Theme, "Growth is Inevitable" and that last week Alcoholics Anonymous celebrated its 87th birthday. Kenneth C., Past Delegate, Panel 67 read "Why Do We Need a Conference?" from the AA Service Manual p. 40.

Introduction of G.S.O. Guest

Rainer L., Delegate, introduced this weekend's guest, Diana L, who shared briefly about her role as a G.S.O. staff member and provided a visual overview of the amazing resources that are available on the newly designed A.A. website. One highlight included is that all literature

is available in English, Spanish and French and The Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve can be read, listened to or watched via sign language on the website. Diana will share her experience, strength and hope as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous on Sunday morning.

Introduction of the Area Committee

Denise asked DCMs and alternate DCMs and LCMs to stand and be recognized. Past DCMs that had rotated out but were still eligible to stand for office at the Fall Election Assembly were recognized. The Area 51 Coordinators, Archivist, and Convention Chair stood and introduced themselves, followed by the Past Delegates and current Trustee. Denise thanked all the Coordinators for their workshops and introduced the Area Officers.

Administrative Announcements

Denise shared that Pat B., Literature Coordinator is not here this weekend due to a family illness but that the Literature table will be open. She recognized Jose R., the timekeeper and Jennifer W., Heather S., and Patrick D. as the vote counters for the weekend. Everyone who helped with registration was thanked and recognized. It was announced that after the last break the 7th Tradition basket will be passed for Area 51 contributions to be sent to GSB per a previous Assembly Advisory action. Denise stated that our guest, Diana, will be “raffled off”; those interested in this special dinner opportunity, at no cost, should put their name/district number in the box for the drawing. Everyone was asked to sign up for the State Convention, which is July 7-10, followed by a reminder that the Area Inventory is tonight from 7- 11 pm.

Denise announced Clayborne T., our Alternate Chair, is the liaison with the hotel should you incur any issues. Clayborne made announcements related to the designated smoking area, the self-support can for coffee consumption and the general layout of the hotel. Sunday morning there is a raffle for the Theme Banner and there will also be a raffle involving literature from both the Grapevine and Literature tables. Members were instructed to put their name/district number in the raffle boxes on the back tables.

Agenda Overview

Denise reviewed the Advance Information for the 2022 Fall Assembly, November 19-20, 2022 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills. This will be an Election Assembly so it is important that we all attend. There is a link on the flyer to reserve hotel rooms on-line. Reserving your room early not only ensures that the Area will make the room block but guarantees the contracted discounted rate for the room. Be sure to make your reservation before the October 25, 2022 deadline.

Denise reviewed the weekend schedule which included the Saturday afternoon business session, the Saturday evening Inventory session, the Sunday morning 6:30 am Meditation meeting, the Sunday guest speaker meeting, and concludes with any remaining reports and unfinished business. She reviewed the hotel map pointing out the location of the six Inventory sessions Saturday night and the Archives. She asked everyone to return promptly from breaks, stating there were seven business items to consider this weekend and asked those giving reports to sit near the front to help us stay on schedule. Denise asked if there were any objections to the adoption of the agenda for the weekend. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted.

Adopt Rules of Order and Debate

Clayborne T. reviewed the rules of order and debate included on page 7 of the agenda. These are based on practices adapted from the General Service Conference, which in turn are based on “Robert’s Rules of Order.” Denise asked if there were any objection to adopting the rules of order and debate. Hearing none, the rules of debate were adopted.

Minutes from the 2021 Fall Assembly were previously emailed or mailed to GSRs and all Committee members. There being no objections, the reading of the minutes was waived. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes.

MOTION 1: Approve the Minutes of the 2021 Fall Assembly as published. The motion was made by Debbi A., DCM D04 and seconded by Nancy B., DCM D03. **Motion Passed Without Opposition.**

Treasurer’s Report: Stevie D., Treasurer: Stevie D. reviewed the corrected 2022 1st Quarter Financial Report. The opening balance on 1/1/22 was \$31,827. There were contributions of \$31,804 which included literature sales, coffee contributions and interest for a total income of \$63,631. \$29,798 of that total came from Group contributions and matches the total on the handout titled “Contributions by District to Area 51.” Expenditures were \$33,363 and subtracted from the total income reported equals \$30,268. Stevie added that amount to the beginning balance and indicated that we have a General Checking Fund Balance as of 3/31/22 of \$30,268. This was followed by a breakdown of the various elements in the Money Market Savings Account which totaled \$111,673; then he added \$1898 from Corrections and that gave Area 51 an ending balance of \$143,839 from all accounts after all income and expenditures. Next Stevie reviewed a sheet he distributed to DCMs showing how home groups/districts can set up a checking account with an EIN instead of a social security number. He indicated that banks no longer use social security numbers to set up accounts so using the EIN eliminates end of year tax issues as well as having to redo paperwork every time a new person rotates into the service position. This information will also be posted on the website. Finally, Stevie informed everyone there was a \$10,500 increase in required deposits for hotel contracts that will occur over the next three years. This was paid by the \$11,725 contribution the Area received from the 2021 Women’s International Conference which was held in Charlotte. This transfer from the money market savings account effectively eliminated any potential surplus the Area might have accrued during the 2021-2022 Delegate’s term. **Please see attached report.**

Denise asked if there were any questions for Stevie on his report and if not if there was a motion to approve.

MOTION 2: Approve 1st Quarter 2022 Financial Statement. The motion was made by Monica M., DCM D93 and seconded by Scott H., DCM D50. **Motion Passed Without Opposition.**

Denise indicated the need to deviate from agenda because a past Chair of the General Service Board, Elaine McDowell, had passed away this week. She asked Donna B, Past Delegate, Panel 51 to say a few words. Donna shared an overview of her accomplishments. Elaine McDowell, PHD, served as a Class A nonalcoholic member of the General Service Board from 1992-2002. In April 2001 she was elected chair of the Board becoming the 1st woman and the 1st African American to hold that position. As a past Chair of the Board in 2005, she became a Trustee Emeritus. She was also a contributor to the AA Grapevine. Outside of AA, Elaine had several decades of experience in administering treatment, research and prevention programs in the fields of alcohol, drug abuse and mental health. She served as a consultant and published numerous articles in her field. She was a nonalcoholic guest speaker for an Area 51 Assembly during Donna B's term as Delegate.

Grapevine Report – Brooks D., Grapevine Coordinator: Brooks opened by informing those present there is another new book from the Grapevine called Fun in Sobriety. Last week, at District 17's Founders Day celebration in Dobson, NC, she sold her first copy of the book and they have been selling very well ever since. She also attended a Unity Day event in Hickory for District 12 which included a full day of fun and activity. District 71 invited her to another Founder's Day event where the joke book, A Rabbit Walks into a Bar, was the best seller. In April, Brooks attended a Tri-county Intergroup event where she met Marcos, the La Vina Coordinator from District 30 and he has helped her get some copies of La Vina into the Wake County jail. Next she provided an update on Instagram. Currently the Grapevine has 7,556 followers while La Vina has reached 874 followers. She informed us that Don, a co-host from the Grapevine Podcast, participated in the Saturday morning Grapevine workshop. The podcast downloads are up 45% in the last 90 days with a total of 142,286 downloads. To join in on the fun, please visit www.aagrapevine.org/podcast and start listening. Brooks closed by indicating that she will be at the NC State Convention next month and that a Spanish language Emotional Sobriety will be published in September. She thanked the fellowship for allowing her to be of service and indicated that any district or group that wants her to do a workshop or event should email her at grapevine@aanorthcarolina.org. **Please see attached report.**

Delegate's Report – Rainer L., Delegate: Rainer began his report about the 72nd General Service Conference by indicating that everything we experience in service happens on the framework of our personal recovery and the principles of AA Tradition. He reviewed things he had learned from working the 3rd step, the 4th step, and from the value of the faith in the God he had found in the 2nd Tradition. Rainer explained that the General Service Conference (GSC) is, as defined in Article 1 of the Conference Charter, "the guardian of the World Services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous." Rainer addressed the importance of the PreConference events. He acknowledged that although AA Tradition gives all Delegates the freedom to vote as their conscience dictates, the PreConference events had prepared and informed him of the varying perspectives across the fellowship. Rainer said that although he will address many agenda items in his report, additional resources will be available online on the Area 51 website where we can find a list of all Advisory Actions, all Committee Considerations, and all the Recommendations which did not pass. Next Rainer shared that another AA membership survey is forthcoming but does not know exact dates. And although it took the last 5 Conferences, they had finally approved the procedure to reorganize the Board if needed. They approved a draft of the "Young People and AA" pamphlet and agreed to revise "Do You Think You're Different?" noting that the stories collected in 1976 were 46 years old and outdated. Also, "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet will be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations. The Conference took no action on the motion to change terminology in the "AA Group" pamphlet from "holding office" to "trusted service." The recommendation to restore the missing paragraph from the story "Freedom From Bondage" failed, largely due to the proximity to the 5th Edition release. Also, they did not recommend the proposed relocation of the Dr's Opinion to page 1 noting that the change would impact several other publications like the *Daily Reflections* and *As Bill Sees It*. The Conference took no action on including a GSR Preamble in the GSR pamphlet believing the role was already adequately described. Rainer indicated there was a lot of discussion about topics relating to safety in A.A. literature and believes this was appropriate because he feels having a safe meeting place is one of the fundamental elements of offering an open, welcoming meeting for a newcomer where the focus is on our primary purpose and not other concerns. Rainer listed examples of changes that were approved in the booklet *Living Sober* and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and then other examples that failed. He indicated that there will be documents posted in the Delegate's Corner from the Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups and he thanked District 18 and Area 51 as a whole for being at the forefront of thinking how we can include "online only" meetings within the General Service Structure. Next he communicated that Conference approved new language in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and there was also a recommendation that the animated video of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" be adapted and produced by the Publishing department. Rainer was excited by the prospect of presenting content that is modern and traditional, fresh but also proven. He believes this is how we can effectively reach our audience whether it's a current or future member. Next Rainer conveyed there is a possibility of having a draft manuscript of the Plain and Simple Translation ready for the 73rd GSC. He reiterated that the steps are protected; they will not be translated into simplified language. He did, however, ask each of us to try and help members in our home groups understand that the Plain and Simple Translation is an additional resource, not a revision or a replacement. Rainer next addressed the Preamble revision and the changes in the *Twelve and Twelve* that occurred at the 71st Conference and were major topics at the PreConference events. And although they were also discussed at this year's Conference, no action resulted as both the Grapevine Committee and the Literature Committee expressed there was no appetite to rescind the revisions. Furthermore, the agenda item that proposed that the changes to the *Twelve and Twelve* be handled in footnotes, the committee stated it "did not want to mandate a specific format for possible changes at a future Conference. Future proposals should be considered by the group conscience of each Conference." Similarly, in discussing requests to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the committee also took no action, noting that "we operate on a system of trust and checks and balances" and that "our Twelve Concepts adequately provide guidance to our trusted servants to make decisions that reflect the informed group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole." Rainer began his closing remarks by stating that last year he was proud of the work the Conference did and grateful for the boldness. This year he was moved by the prudence shown in resisting the temptation to overreach the Conference's purpose. He expressed that a lot of concern about the 71st Conference has centered on the idea that recent changes compromise proven A.A. tools and principles. Rainer asked us to consider the spiritual values of trust and faith. He disclosed that he has learned from the example of others and that the A.A. he has come to know, the A.A. that saved his life, will continue with the same strength and vitality through sponsorship: one alcoholic helping another, passing the torch, raising the newcomer to honor and respect our history and traditions. He said this is how we prepare our leaders and the leaders to

come. Furthermore, he said we protect Alcoholics Anonymous by carrying the message in its entirety and by practicing and teaching the Three Legacies of our Society. Rainer ended by saying thank you for allowing him to serve, for allowing him to carry our voice, to represent Area 51, and to serve AA as a whole. Rainer can be contacted by emailed at delegate@aanorthcarolina.org.

Please see attached report.

Denise reminded the members present that the 7th Tradition basket, per Assembly Advisory Action, will be passed with the proceeds going to GSB. Other reminders were to register for the State Convention, if not already, and to visit the Archives display in Walden. The Coordinator displays are located in the Prefunction area; however, the products on the Grapevine and the Literature tables are for sale and are not free. The final announcement concerned a flyer from Deborah K, Chair of the Literature Committee. It is a call for stories for the 5th Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* along with instructions for submitting a manuscript. The deadline to submit is October 31, 2022.

BREAK

Registrar's Report – Greg K., Registrar: Before Greg began his report he announced the location of two bins: one for group change forms and the other for badges in which to return at the conclusion of the Assembly. He relayed there were a total of 300 members present at the Assembly, of which 240 were voting members, making the quorum 160. Greg opened his report by reminding everyone that the duties of Registrar has evolved with the implementation of Fellowship Connection and the Registrar is considered a crucial first point of contact for group and trusted servants' data. He then read Concept 1 which states: "Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." He thinks a shortened version of Concept 1 is for each group to have an active G.S.R. Next he talked about the importance of communication and of registering groups at the local level, the state level and with G.S.O. He gave an overview of the updates he has made in the database. We currently have 1,131 groups with 19,737 members. There are 51 Correctional Facility groups with 1,211 members. NC now has 12 virtual groups with 135 members in the Fellowship Connection database. He is aware of only one Area (state) that has a virtual district. Greg discussed the importance of providing complete information when trying to register a new group. Each DCM has "read only" access to the FC database for their district but this is important because it allows them to see new groups or new updates and if there is incomplete information the DCM can reach out to the group, welcome them and/or obtain the missing information. Currently NC has a database called Access and G.S.O. has a database called Fellowship Connection. Utilizing two different databases requires inputting the same information twice. Greg communicated that Fellowship Connection was probably robust enough to provide all the functions we need in NC and that he intends to investigate the possibility of going to just one database over the next few months. He closed by thanking everyone that helped with registration and for the opportunity to be of service. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact him at registrar@aanorthcarolina.org.

Please see attached report.

Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report – Alison M., B & F Chair: Alison started her report by thanking Denise and Stevie for all their support during the surplus funds process. Her subcommittee worked very diligently to be good stewards of the surplus funds and to identify the most pressing Area need. She communicated that her subcommittee members had worked meticulously to examine all the ideas that were submitted. There were 28 submissions and her group has sent an email to all participants communicating which suggestion was selected and thanking them for participating in the process. Alison stated that the selected submission will be presented as an agenda item later today. Another item the subcommittee is working on is the equipment inventory spread sheet for all equipment owned by the Area and utilized by Area trusted servants. This will allow them not only to track when an item goes missing but also to know the age of the item and when it needs replacing. Alison concluded her report by communicating that the final item the subcommittee is working on is a proposed budget for 2023. They intend to present that budget at the Summer Committee and then for approval at the Fall Assembly. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to be of service to Area 51. **Please see attached report.**

Agenda Item # 1

The Area 51 2019-2020 Budget Surplus of \$6,249 be allocated to the Area 51 Archivist for purchase of fireproof cabinetry for Area Archives.

Background Information: As AA fast approaches its 90th anniversary we recognize the passing of many individuals who witnessed the development of the fellowship in Area 51. The Area has been collecting documents and other items related to our common history. Many of these documents are decades old and subject to deterioration as well as destruction by fire.

The Area 51 Archivist preserves these items so they will be available for years to come. Fire-proof cabinetry would ensure protection for these items from the accidental loss through fire and will slow the deterioration that naturally occurs over time.

Budgetary Impact: This is a one-time allocation with no impact on the Area Budget.

Discussion: None

The Motion Passed With Substantial Unanimity.

Minority Opinion: None

Website Subcommittee Report – Nancy B., Website Subcommittee Chair: Nancy opened her report by thanking the Webmaster, Kavaruss, and the rest of her subcommittee for their tireless work. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm on zoom and anyone who would like to participate should contact Nancy at webchair@aanorthcarolina.org. A function of the website subcommittee is to keep track of all the requests that come to the website. Nancy indicated that her team handles the technical requests on Contact-Us, while the Chair handles the non-technical queries. Her committee is currently looking for a new Webmaster whose term would begin January 1st of next year and they are researching the possibility of making it a paid position. Next Nancy explained the history of the website policies starting with when the website was an ad hoc committee and needed close supervision until now where there is less need for supervision. This is evidenced by actions at the Fall Assembly 2021 where there were 3 agenda items that essentially reduced the subcommittee's oversight provided that any proposed changes are first vetted by and approved by the Area Committee. This will provide oversight without constantly cluttering up the Assembly agenda. Therefore, to function efficiently and to accomplish what they need, the subcommittee has created another agenda item. Part of the agenda item includes "that the standing 'website subcommittee' be able to revise their internal structure, policies and procedures to match how the subcommittee feels it can best function." The full agenda item will be presented later today. Another item the subcommittee is currently working on involves the types of technology from which the Area might benefit and once their research is completed, the subcommittee will make a recommendation. Nancy concluded that the website subcommittee has been very busy this year and they are learning how our fellowship can harness the power technology that is available for good. **Please see attached report.**

AGENDA ITEM # 2

That the standing "Website Subcommittee" be able to revise their internal structure, policies and procedures to match how the subcommittee feels it can best function. Any policy changes that affect what information is visible or available in various sections of the website will be first vetted and approved by the Area Committee. Any changes will be reported to the membership and documented in the Website Subcommittee policies and procedures documents.

Background Information: The initial advisory action in Fall 2005 states that "Area 51 will adopt the website policies as recommended by the Ad Hoc Website Committee (see handout). Any modification to these website policies will require Area 51 Assembly approval"

This was created when the website was a new area of engagement for Area 51, and there appeared to be a need to keep close tabs on how the website was generated and modified, and how the subcommittee functioned. Much has improved in the time that has elapsed, and the last Assembly indicated strongly that there no longer needed to be such strict oversight, creating a large number of advisory actions that unnecessarily clutter up the assembly agenda.

Provided each change is first vetted and approved by the Area Committee, this oversight can still be accomplished without involvement of the whole Assembly.

Budgetary Impact: There is not a budgetary impact.

Discussion: None.

This Motion Passed Without Opposition.

Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee Report – Scott H., G & M Chair: Scott began his report by thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve as the chairperson of the G & M subcommittee. He indicated that the vast bulk of what they had been working on was preparing for the Area Inventory which will take place this evening. Their goal is to facilitate the process tonight and then to compile the data in a viable format from which the Area will be able to utilize for consideration and/or action. Scott also indicated that his subcommittee had spent a significant amount of time and effort researching hybrid technologies in an effort to discover the best technology that could enable Area 51 to carry out in-person and Zoom enabled Assembly and Committee meetings. They are researching the logistics, the resources needed and cost of implementation. They are reaching out to other Areas who have already implemented this technology for feedback. Scott stated that while these two initiatives had received the bulk of their efforts, they did have members trained to make updates to the P3 manual and that was an ongoing effort as well. Scott concluded his report by communicating how exciting it was for him to be a part of this subcommittee at such a significant time in Area 51's spiritual growth. **Please see attached report.**

AGENDA ITEM # 3

In order to promote an informed group conscience, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate be able to attend any and all preconferences held in Area 51, whether in-person or virtual. This is to discuss General Service Conference agenda items, when hosted by districts in the various regions of Area 51.

Background Information: In an advisory action in May 2008, it states "In order to promote an informed group conscience, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate 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."

At present, there are four preconferences (Eastern, Central, Western, Spanish), and in 2021, there were many virtual preconference events. Our current Delegate has expressed interest in keeping some form of virtual preconference events going in parallel with the in-person events. Opening up the language to allow them to attend as many as they wish brings the advisory action in line with the current practice.

Budget Impact: No budgetary impact. The Delegate and Alternate Delegate are currently funded to attend the four in person pre-Conference events.

Discussion: None

The Motion passed with Substantial Unanimity.

Minority Opinion: None

Agenda Item # 4

In order to promote an informed Fellowship, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate attend post-Conference events annually to discuss the actions and procedures of the General Service Conference. These events would be hosted by the Districts in the Western, Central and Eastern regions of Area 51, and by the Spanish Linguistic Districts. Additional virtual events may also be scheduled.

Background Information: Area 51 pre-Conferences were approved at the 2008 Fall Assembly. Over the last 13 years, they have increased Fellowship involvement and knowledge of the Conference process, and improved our ability to send informed and prepared Delegates to the General Service Conference. Pre-Conference events provide an interactive opportunity for participation and common understanding of the Conference Agenda.

In Area 51, the Delegate gives a post-Conference report at the Spring Assembly. There have also been post-Conference reports given to individual districts upon request. Establishing Area 51 post-Conference events would broaden the access of the Fellowship in general to the actions of the Conference, clarify a common understanding of the impacts and nature of Conference Advisory Actions, and allow for an opportunity to question the Delegate about Conference Actions.

To preserve the reporting opportunities and responsibilities of DCMs and GSRs, it is suggested that these events be scheduled between the Spring Assembly and the Summer Committee Meeting.

Budget Impact: \$2,000. This mirrors the amount allocated to the Delegate and Alternate Delegate for the pre-Conference events in the 2022 budget. There would be a one-time increase to the prudent reserve of \$1,000.

Discussion:

Mary M., DCM, D93: While I appreciate the value of the preconference events in person, my district is concerned that this would be expensive and time consuming. We are concerned about attendance and if this is a good resource. It was suggested that maybe this could be done virtually to educate people. We are also trying to have events at our local level, like a Traditions workshop, and we had concerns how it might impact that.

Newton P., Past Delegate, Panel 57: As a past Delegate, I felt sorry for the Delegates that had to spend the next 2 months following Conference going around their Area making post-Conference reports. I think we have an efficient means of getting the word out, having the Delegate give their report at Assembly and then relying on our service structure to communicate that to the groups. I also think it is going to be a burden on the Delegate in terms of time to do this and there is already a considerable amount of time devoted to Conference in the 4 months preceding the event which doesn't include the Conference itself and travel to and from and now you will add another 2 months. Finally, this will also be an expense to the districts and the Area organizing post-Conference events and I think it would be a dis-incentive for groups to send their GSRs to the Assembly where we can have a group conscience in a meeting like this that could generate conversation back down the triangle which is what I think the Delegate's report is supposed to do. We've also got a shorten timeline. I appreciate the idea of this, but for several reasons, I don't think it is practical.

Janet, GSR, Into Action Group: I think there is a very good communication network from what I've seen and virtual meetings, if they are run well, can get a lot of information out there. I just had the question why if we already had the structure in place to get communication out, why would we change it?

Greg K., Registrar: I think at a glance this sounds good, but there are a number of reasons I don't think this is the best idea. My biggest concern is that it takes away district autonomy. From my understanding the Delegate has already done a few post-Conference reports and there's nothing saying that a district can't invite the Delegate to give his report to their groups but this would prevent districts from inviting the Delegate for anything else because his or her time is committed. There's also a ton of time involved for a district to set up a Conference event as all the districts that have hosted a pre-Conference event can attest. There's

also expense and I think it takes away the flexibility for districts and I think it distracts from our primary purpose. I think that if a district wants to invite the Delegate to give a report, that's great, but I don't think it should be mandated.

Melanie, GSR, Women in Recovery Group: My group said yes, we need to be more informed because apparently they didn't like reading the report that's put out. They want somebody to come tell them the report. They felt it was more likely that we would be informed about what's going on if we had a meeting to go to and the report was read or even read to them virtually. They thought it was a great idea and we think it is worth the time because of the recent changes that happened last year and the upheaval so we need to be more informed.

Liz G., DCM, D71: The groups in my district thought it was a good idea, but after listening to several speak here today, I thought how cool it would be to consider having an hour question-answer sharing session here at the Assembly to cover some of those things that perhaps were not answered or that there might still be questions. It is just something to think about.

Jason, GSR, The Way Home Group: I agree with what others have said about the impact of the Delegate getting the information out but on a previous agenda item on surplus funds we were told this was only one of 28 items that the subcommittee had to choose. I think that \$2000 for this item would be used toward some of them whereas this could be held virtually at no cost.

Denise M., Chair: To clarify, this has nothing to do with the surplus amount; the surplus was on the money for the fire-proof cabinets. This would be a budget item for Area 51 reoccurring annually.

Jason, GSR, The Way Home Group: Correct, but we were told that there were 28 items to consider and only 1 could be funded and I am just saying there were 27 others that could do well with this \$2000.00.

Alvin, GSR, The Log Cabin Group: The pre-Conference is a two way street and we struggled to get our people to the pre-Conference. The post-Conference is like this is what it was and what happened and Rainer gave an unbelievable report. I would love to have a video of that. If that could have been captured so everybody could play it... I think this is an ideal opportunity for a virtual event and take the burden off the districts. Then the districts can focus on another event if needed. We could video the Delegate's report and then the groups could play it at their meeting if they wanted.

Troy M., GSR, The Morning Meditation Group: Remembering last year when we voted on numbers put together by Chris and myself for hardware to do virtual events, so we could take them wherever we needed to and watching that get shot down. I think it would be wonderful if we had the opportunity to have the Delegate give a post-Conference report and then be able to take it to different communities on a rotating basis but also offer it virtually as well. I would like for us to reconsider the purchasing of the hardware so that we have the ability to do a lot more than driving half way across the state to get the information out.

Melissa, GSR, The Rocky Point Group: My home group reminded that I am supposed to attend both the Spring and Fall Assembly and it is my responsibility to bring that information back to my group members. Area 51 is a very large area and I would feel bad if I expected my Delegate to drive to every district in NC and explain to us what I should have gotten here as a responsible trusted servant of my home group. We do agree that putting it on a virtual platform, recording it in case my notes aren't good. This would take a lot of our Delegate's time which I am sure is limited anyway and my responsibility as a GSR is to take this information back to my group.

Kimberly M., DCM, D23: Our district overall voted in favor of this. We wouldn't be opposed to trying it out on a trial basis; however, members of my home group pointed out that our district recently hosted a post-Conference virtual event. Just last week Rainer came to our weekly service manual study and gave the Delegate's report and there was an opportunity for questions and its going to be uploaded onto our district website. A member pointed out that to offer the Delegate's report virtually is an efficient way for everybody to have the opportunity to hear the information and does not cost \$2000 and wouldn't be added strain on districts or our Delegate.

Mary S., GSR, Rainbow Recovery Group: Would it be appropriate to ask the current Delegate and Alternate Delegate to give their opinions of the Agenda Item?

Denise M., Chair: You can ask and I will let them decide if it is appropriate to answer.

Stan H., Treatment Facility Coordinator: I am not opposed to this but my main thing is discouragement to these Assemblies because we have so much access to zoom. We need more members attending the Assembly not only for the Delegate's report but for the other Committee Reports. The Q&A suggestion was a brilliant idea. We have a lot of options here other than forcing districts into a commitment that might not pan out and it might be financially difficult.

Rainer L., Delegate: I do have an opinions; I am actually the one who brought this up which is why I have been quiet till now. I believe my experience at Conference led me to a deeper faith in the service of other people and that is a safeguard of our future. I do not want this to come across as a lack of confidence for the job that people are doing. Three months before Conference I heard that the Preamble change was by a non-alcoholic Trustee. No idea where that came from. At one of the pre-Conferences I heard that the Preamble change was passed without discussion which was not my memory of the process. So our communication is important. Maybe we don't need this. We do have a service structure; we do have delegation and trust and we have responsibilities to our groups as trusted servants to come here and deliver a voice and go back and carry a message. But there is a nuance to some of these things and it's easy to take a headline, "There's a new Preamble" and if that is all that's shared and no discussion or somebody being told that the Conference voted against preserving the first 164 pages of the Big Book. That's not what we did this year. We didn't approve the action but there's a deeper spiritual substance to that and I think having a direct delivery from a Delegate might be... (bell tinkles followed by laughter as Rainer stops mid sentence).

Julie R., Alternate Delegate: I really feel uncomfortable speaking on this agenda item because I plan on standing for Delegate (general laughter) and it's important to me that the group conscience is formed by you all so I am going to stick to the facts and you'll probably figure out how I feel anyway. So historically districts have invited the Delegate to give post-Conference reports; districts have combined together like when 70 and 71 invited the Delegate. We have new technology that we are using. I don't feel comfortable with the Area telling the districts you need to do this because we know what's good for you. I think it needs to come from the top down, from the groups. I think it's a wonderful idea to have these post-Conference reports. Now you are going to tell me this is how it is with the pre-Conference events, but the motion for the pre-Conference events came from the districts and it's

important to have the back-n-forth. The Delegate's report is important and the Spring Assembly is for that report and for you all to take back to your groups. If you want videos on the website, we can do that. If you want audio recording on the website, we can do that too; if you want zoom, we can do that; we can make a bullet point list. Each Delegate is going to present information in a different way. I do not want to tie the hands of the Delegate 20 years from now, another Advisory Action that we need to undo... (bell tinkles and Julie wipes brow to laughter)

George S., DCM, D35: I'm generally in favor of more communication; I really enjoyed the pre-Conference I attended this year. I was thinking anytime I have ever stood for any service responsibility in AA, I carefully look at what the responsibilities are going to be and whether I can actually fulfill them and my concern with this is would a potential candidate for Delegate in the future not stand because of all these additional meetings and weigh that against their careers and family obligations and say I can't stand for this position.

Margaret, GSR, The Primary Purpose Group: I call the question.

Denise M., Chair: Calling the question requires a second.

Steve R., DCM, D70: I second that.

Denise M., Chair: What we will do now is vote on calling the question. What that means is if you want discussion to stop and you feel you have heard everything you need to hear, then you vote in the affirmative. If you would like to hear more discussion you will vote against calling the question. All in favor? All opposed?

The Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity.

Denise M., Chair: Now we move directly to voting on the agenda item that was being discussed (Reads Agenda Item) All in favor? All opposed?

The Motion Failed with Substantial Unanimity.

Minority Opinion: None

Inventory Overview

Denise reviewed the Inventory process, noting that the last one was completed in 2013. She explained that the 2020 Fall Assembly passed an Advisory Action calling for an Area 51 Inventory. Per the Advisory Action, the Inventory, open to all AA members, will last four hours from 7-11 pm and nine questions will be discussed. She explained that all levels of service experience are valuable as we seek to improve our practices, policies and procedures in Area 51. The inventory features both large and small group sharing for maximum participation. It is based in part on the previous inventory and a previous AA General Service Conference Inventory. There will be five English-speaking inventory sessions and one Spanish-speaking inventory session. Each group will appoint a reporter to take notes and to give a 10 minute synopsis of their small group discussion to the general session at the conclusion of the breakout sessions. Each group will discuss all nine questions listed on the Inventory Handout. Five Area Officers will moderate the English sessions and the Area Interpreter, will moderate the Spanish session. The Area Delegate, the Area Chair and the Chair of the Growth and Maintenance (G & M) subcommittee will not be assigned to one Inventory session, but will visit all sessions to be available to answer any questions. However, members from the G & M subcommittee will be present in each session to take notes for the evaluation and implementation process. There will be a comment box in the back of the room where members can record thoughts and ideas on index cards which will be given to the G & M subcommittee to include as they evaluate the feedback and consider recommendations. Denise thanked everyone in advance for their participation indicating that all thoughts, opinions and ideas are important as we discuss what we do well and what we can do better in Area 51. Like our personal inventory that helps us grow as individuals, our Area Inventory is a spiritual process and exploration of how the Area is functioning will allow for general improvement.

Saturday Evening Inventory Sessions

#	Sharing Session	Location	Moderated by
	Inventory Session # 1	Lakeshore Salon I	Alternate Delegate Julie R.
2	Inventory Session # 2	Lakeshore Salon II	Alternate Chair Clayborne T.
3	Inventory Session # 3	Lakeshore Salon III	Secretary Lisa P.
4	Inventory Session # 4	Lakeshore Salon IV	Treasurer Stevie D.
5	Inventory Session # 5	University Ballroom E	Registrar Greg K.
6	Spanish Inventory Session	University Ballroom D	Interpreter Rick L.

The nine Inventory Questions are:

- 1) How might Area 51 better communicate the importance of the principle of participation in General Service to our Groups and Districts>

- 2) How effective is the Area Assembly in communicating information within the General Service Structure, especially with new trusted servants who are attending their first Area Assembly?
- 3) Is our current Assembly workshop schedule and procedure the best way to raise topical issues groups and districts face, allowing members to share experience, strength, and hope with each other?
- 4) How can we improve on attracting new people to participate in the Area 51 Service Structure and Assemblies? Can service sponsorship make a difference?
- 5) What might the Area 51 Service Coordinators do to improve support for and communication with their district/group counterparts?
- 6) Are the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts guiding our decisions and actions when we discuss business at Assemblies? Provide examples.
- 7) After navigating both the challenges and advantages from meeting virtually for more than a year, how can Area 51 continue to utilize virtual platforms to enhance carrying A.A.'s message?
- 8) While adhering to our 7th Tradition, how can Area 51 improve on the surplus funds process (see below) to fulfill our primary purpose within Area 51?

2003 Advisory Action describing the Area 51 Surplus process:

“At the February Committee and Spring Assembly of the 1st year of each Delegate’s term, the Area Committee and the 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 2nd year of the same Delegate term will then be forwarded to GSO.”

- 9) Do you have any questions, comments or concerns of your own to add for consideration by the Area 51’s Chair and Committee?

Rainer drew ten names for the raffle drawing to have dinner with our Special Guest, Diana L., to be held in the Parlor, room 1209.

The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Break

Saturday Evening General Sharing Session

The session was opened with the Serenity Prayer. Denise reminded everyone that our Registrar, Greg, has placed bins on the back table for group change forms and badges to be placed at the end of the Assembly. Also, items on the Literature and Grapevine tables are for sale; they are not free. Furthermore, all items on the other Service Coordinator’s tables are for display only; should anyone desire a similar item to take back to their home group, see the appropriate Coordinator and they can assist you in securing one at cost. The final reminder was that everyone can continue to share their ideas, thoughts and opinions on cards next to a box in the back of the room and the Inventory submission from on the Area webpage will continue to be available through the end of July for any additional ideas that may occur at a later time.

Group 1: Wanda C., DCM, D31: Q1 – Continue with more virtual ways to ask for information. Put more information on website about virtual meetings. Encourage service sponsorship more. Have more workshops at assemblies and convention. Conduct an outside audit for website to access user friendliness. Q2 – Provide Delegate’s report in writing asap. Have a DCM packet and a GSR packet with information about their responsibilities at assembly. Provide a teleprompter to assist with note taking at assembly. There were many comments on emphasizing service sponsorship. Important for DCMs to visit groups in district to encourage/direct GSRs. Add wording to P3 manual to clearly state what is expected of GSRs and DCMs. Q3 – Think about strategies for workshops possibly held by the Area outside the assembly weekend. Area to assist DCMs with ideas on how to get GSRs involved. Put workshops on video and place on website as an instructional tool. Provide additional workshops, not just coordinator workshops. Q4 – Provide workshops on service sponsorship and their important value. Some had never heard of service sponsorship. Offer a fun event to “cap off” assembly weekend. Offer pamphlets in video format and talk more about the Three Legacies. The “we” in question 4 needs to be the DCMs and GSRs more than the Area. Q5 – DCMs be allowed to meet with Coordinators via zoom for a Q&A. Make periodic contact via email with DCMs as exemplified by current Grapevine Coordinator. Increase resources for data management, possibly creating a new service position for such within Area. Provide templates on website for DCMs to use at district meetings to disperse information. Coordinators to visit district meetings more. Offer assembly workshops in hybrid format. Q6 – Yes. Q7 – Concerns expressed about in-person attendance negatively impacted. Hybrid good for “stop gap” but limits interactiveness. Hybrid takes practice. Virtual assemblies may diminish 7th tradition contributions. Find way to include/contact more young people groups. Q8 – Many expressed need for clarification on how surplus is calculated and distributed perhaps in a workshop format. Communicate criteria for surplus suggestions. Explain what happens to suggested items not selected. Use 3rd Legacy process for

multiple surplus suggestions. Promote the P3 manual more. Q9 – Provide minutes in less time than 5 weeks. Publish coordinator reports separately prior to publishing entire minutes. Use surplus to have more workshops and Unity Day type events. Conduct Area Inventory more often. Increase coordinator budget. **Please see attached report.**

Group 2: Jody D., Alternate DCM, D31: (Did not address questions in a specific order) – Indicated that their group had themes and a lot of the same ideas so only going hit on some of the main points. Theme of engaging people and communication with main goal to emphasize that it's everyone's job, not just the Area's. Don't expect assembly to provide all service structure training. Area can provide some specific GSR training either in a zoom setting or pre-recorded on demand format. Member to member talk is important. Discussed goal and focus of assembly: is it for business, for workshops, or dissemination of materials and information? Post Inventory: bring back the workshops on service sponsorship and effective GS Ring. Have a "How To" table at assembly which includes, among other things, how to run a service manual study and how to engage newcomers into service. Use the Area website to provide training and capture group feedback. Area should shift gears to engage "disengaged" groups. Make sure sponsorship includes all 3 Legacies. Suggestions of effective ways to utilize the Area 51 website included having a GSR portal, a list of Robert's Rules of Order, how to find a service sponsor, an email signup, and Area focus groups on a variety of topics. Believed the Assembly was efficient but rearrange the order. Look at how we are using workshops. Provide information to members in timely fashion. Connecting together all the people in the same service position whether at state, district or group would improve efficiency. Since we are in middle of Inventory, they felt the steps, traditions and concepts are included in assembly business. The distribution of surplus funds process as strong example of adhering to traditions. Virtual options save money and time. Attendees in session were educated that surplus funds must be one-time cost type project and must support entire Area, not one particular region or group. Additional comments included disengaging from the zoom would be a poor idea and believed finding viable options for zoom to be included as a resource were important. **Please see attached report.**

Group 3: Annette K., GSR, Big Town Group: Q1 – This really comes down to sponsorship and teaching sponsees AA history and importance of traditions. Workshops on what's happening with Area providing a 15-30 minute presentation for the groups. Believe that new GSRs need workshops to learn how to take information back to their home group. Discussed difference between groups that have GSRs and meetings that do not have GSRs. Covid has impacted groups which in turn have impacted participation. Show people what is in it for them and positive impact on sobriety. Q2 – Fellowship Connection helpful in identifying new GSRs. Connect GSRs with service sponsorship. Have a 1st time GSR workshop. Liked "How the Assembly Operates" but would also like to have a "What to Expect at Your 1st Assembly" that teaches confusing terminology and the basics of what happens at the Assembly. Q3 – One person thought workshops were boring because they knew topics too well. Area should send out a call for suggestions from districts and groups on needed and relevant workshop topics. Old timers need to let young people make mistakes and rotate out of position. Importance of getting people excited about general service by "being" excited about general service. Q4 – Part 1. Provide videos for new GSRs. Provide workshops on service sponsorship. Make it more fun. Act excited about service. Part 2. Strongly endorsed service sponsorship and discussed information about service sponsorship is found on p 9-10 of the Service Manual and in pamphlet on sponsorship. Pair a returning member with each new GSR at 1st Assembly to have as a buddy and source of information. Area needs to reach out to inactive districts and districts need to reach out to inactive groups. Q5 – Encourage people to have fun at workshops. Teach by example. Rural areas can feel neglected but monthly contact or a newsletter by email can help with connectedness. Q6 – Group impressed by how business was handled today but felt concern that we can be too quick to "call the question" and is this following tradition if we cut off the debate. It was noted that minority opinion is always requested and respected. Felt it is good that the Chair explained why we avoid clapping on an issue to prevent the inverse of booing on an issue. Whispers and conversations in the back of assembly room can be quite distracting. We learn to grow up in business meetings not AA meetings. Q7 – Adding workshops virtually would be a vital tool for those can't attend in-person and who use virtual. Do Area Assembly on video but use it as a tool only because it eliminates opportunity to ask questions or vote. Hybrid may not be viable. Don't want to lose what we've gained in technology. Loved the YouTube video shown today on the concepts by Diana L. and would like to have a good mix of all tools to help carry the message. Q8 – One individual didn't think money should by default go to GSO because groups had sent money to Area and that's where it should stay. It was explained this was an Advisory Action by a previous Assembly. One suggestion was to use the money to assist districts that struggle financially or add more to Unity Fund because GSRs were turned away today. Q9 – Suggestion for the website to add service positions and coordinators to connect around the state. Suggested creating a tech sponsor for individuals who needed assistance connecting to zoom or hold a workshop. Suggested having greeters as part of registration to help direct people and answer questions. **Please see attached report.**

Group 4: Donnie J., GSR, G2 Group: Q1 – Make sure intergroups get information like the districts. Have workshops for sponsorship in order to get people excited about and involved in service. There is confusion for some GSR's between their responsibility to their intergroup and their district. What are some of the best practices that other Areas utilize? It was suggested utilizing different communication and media especially for younger people. One district commented they have a new GSR orientation 4 times a year which includes an introduction to service sponsorship. Q2 – Someone expressed that Assemblies are too formal and hard to understand the acronyms. Presenters need to be animated. They would like to have Roberts Rule of Order cheat sheets for new GSRs before Assembly. New GSR trainings were suggested, possibly a New GSR Page on website to include a job description, important terminology, cliff notes version of training, etc. Q3 – It was asked if workshops could be included on the schedule of special Assemblies, like an Election of Inventory. Would like monthly zoom training meetings facilitated by the Area. They wanted to know who and when workshops were selected. Q4 – Stevie D., said he was told to introduce himself and to ask for a service sponsor at an Assembly and that is how he came to have his service sponsor. Concerns were expressed about who pays for travel and how GSRs know there are scholarships available. It was also asked if Assemblies are optional for GSRs because that is what they thought. Q5 – It was pointed out that receiving the monthly GV newsletter had created excitement and assisted in getting group level GV representatives. It was asked how to resolve when intergroups occasionally but un-intentionally stop the communication between groups and their district? One district indicated they have the history of AA from their district

displayed in a public place similar to an intergroup. Q6 – Several people have used or referenced the steps, traditions and concepts in their reports. One person said in last agenda item (Agenda Item 4) they felt the Area was being pushed down instead of being pushed up from the groups which went against our traditions. It was appreciated that spiritually was openly referenced. Q7 – It was agreed that everyone wants workshops and that communication is better than ever but always room for improvement. It is believed that virtual meetings are needed especially rural areas or for people with physical limitations. They loved the Grapevine podcast. (bell tinkles time had expired) **Please see attached report.**

Group 5: Margaret, GSR, Primary Purpose Group: Q1 – Three main ideas came out of and ran through all the questions for our group: communication, sponsorship and training. They discussed getting people more involved in service and ways to do that from the bottom up rather than from the Area down; sponsorship was biggest tool. They discussed hybrid meetings and some of their limitations. They also discussed the importance of knowing the responsibilities of a service position before taking on that position. Many times GSRs have no idea what is expected and where does the responsibility of teaching them fall: the Area, the district or the group? The importance of sponsorship and service sponsorship were both discussed. The concept video shown by Diana L. was praised as an example of an effective tool communicating ideas in an attractive yet informative format. GSRs need trainings that are not only engaging and informative but also attractive. Q2 – Mentoring of GSRs was considered important and should be spearheaded by the Area, along with more resources that help the GSR perform their duties. It was suggested that these materials could be stored on the Area website. The group believed that it is everyone's responsibility as trusted servants to communicate the importance of General Service. Service sponsorship should be emphasized. Q3 – They thought the workshops should be recorded so individuals who cannot attend can view at a later time. More meetings for DCMs to share with one another their experiences and concerns would be beneficial. It was suggested that workshop topics should include suggestions from districts and individual groups to include issues they may be facing. Q4 – Most of the discussion centered on service sponsorship and the importance they can have in attracting participation. It was suggested that we need to make it fun. Q5 – (bell tinkles time had expired)
Please see attached report.

Group 6: Juan R.S., DCM D30: (Rick L. translates report in English) Q1 – With better equipment the Area Officers and Coordinators can give the information with more time to the DCMs of each district who in turn can get it to the GSRs quicker. We can invite the different coordinators to the districts; we could also use the social platforms and the email better and we could make the message simpler, kind of like service in sobriety. Q2 – Yes it is effective because they usually have all the tables with all the information from all the Coordinators. It is effective because they have the information in both English and Spanish that we are going to cover over the weekend. It is effective because all the information also reaches all the districts but it would be more effective if it was more visual and more imaginative and we studied the service manual. Q3 – The answer is yes, it is the best method to get all the information; it is a good method to inform all the DCMs and it's a good method to get all the points of information across because that is how you share your experience, strength and hope. Q4 – The answer is yes, with proper motivation. Sponsorship makes a difference when it is not like in the Grapevine when they can't get it from elsewhere and to motivate the alternates as well as whoever is in the position. Make it more interesting and more motivating so we can interest the newcomers and also sponsor them sometimes financially. Q5 – The answer is to have all the right information clear and in plenty of time to reach all the districts and to provide good communication with the DCMs. Q6 – The answer is yes in part because of our actions, our decisions and our experience. Also in the first part was also practicing the principles and the other part of it was we have the structure in place. An example is like when we ring the bell to keep track of the time. Q7 – The answer is person to person and face to face in groups so you lose the ability to have personal face to face and that gets lost a little bit. Q8 – One of the ways to carry the message was provide more literature to the Area Coordinators so they can in turn do a better job of carrying the message. It will enhance their ability. Q9 – There was some interruptions in the equipment over the weekend so maybe we could have a motion to enhance our translation equipment. **Please see attached report.**

Denise thanked all the reporters for their service and reminded them to either email their report to Lisa at secretary@aanorthcarolina.org within the next week or to give the handwritten reports to her tonight. She stated that there were only a few minutes remaining for comments or questions. Individuals may go to the mic and share for up to 2 minutes but no one may share a second time until everyone else that would like to have had a chance to share.

No one had a desire to share. The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer.

Opening of the Sunday Morning Session

Denise opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. She shared that Kenneth C., Past Delegate Panel 67 had obtained all the Sunday morning readers from District 04 in honor of Debbi A.'s 34th AA anniversary which is today. (Applause) The Steps were read by Phil, the Traditions by Rachel and the Concepts by Melissa. Next, Rainer L., Delegate, introduced the Guest Speaker, Diana L. who told her story.

Break

Denise shared that if anyone wanted a copy of Diana L.'s fabulous talk to sign up for the State Convention and Mike B., with Mountain Recordings, would have CD's available to purchase.

Alternate Delegate's Report – Julie R., Alternate Delegate: Julie began by indicating that she intended to communicate information about some upcoming AA events, a few GSO financial details and then a few takeaways from the Preconference events in her report. First, she shared that the Special Virtual Forum for North and South America is scheduled for July 16 on zoom and registration is free. Members from the service structures of Argentina, Canada, Chile and the US will share their experience, strength and hope in extending the hand of AA to Remote Communities. Next she revealed that the in-person Southeast Regional Forum will be held December 2-4 in New Orleans and then provided an explanation of what Regional forums are and the benefits of attending. We were told that, not only do you get to learn about different service positions, go to workshops and participate in sharing sessions, but you also get to experience the magic that happens between meetings as part of a "squished upside down triangle." Julie continued her report with some financial highlights from GSO. From January to present, there have been \$2.7 million in contributions, which is \$214,000 more than last year during this time. There have been \$3 million in literature sales which is \$173,000 more compared to last year. She indicated that this increase is needed because expenses are trending higher and the cost of making sure the hand of AA is there for the newcomer is increasing as we move back into in-person services. Of those numbers, online contributions were about 23% and can easily be made at aa.org. Next Julie gave financial updates on the Grapevine. Unfortunately, paid subscriptions decreased 12.2%, and online and mobile subscriptions decreased 20.73%. Amazingly, the GV still had a gross profit of \$218,000 for the magazine and \$182,000 on other published items. Unfortunately, increased operating expenses resulted in a net operating loss of \$86,000. If we think the GV magazine is important then we need to support it and we support it through subscriptions and book sales. Contributions are not accepted. Also, the La Vina magazine saw an increase of 3.4 % in subscriptions compared to a significant decrease in 2021. After the financial updates, Julie began sharing about the four Preconferences that were held prior to the 72nd General Service Conference. She began by thanking the districts that hosted and the presenters who explained the various agenda items being discussed. She mused about the passion and respect that was displayed by the fellowship when expressing opposing opinions. Everyone's love of AA was evident. Julie went on to talk about the importance of having Preconference events separate from Area Assemblies, which allows the time necessary to adequately discuss the large number of agenda items and provide feedback to the Delegate for Conference. She explained that Concept 2 describes how we share our voices to the Delegate to represent us at Conference. We do not instruct the Delegate; we just inform, just as a group informs the GSR when the GSR represents their group at Assembly, as conveyed in Tradition 2. We trust that the Delegate will make the best decision for A.A. as a whole, of which Area 51 is a part. However, it starts with the fellowship showing up to the Preconferences. This is how the fellowship stays informed about issues that impact the future of AA. Julie began her conclusion by expressing that it is important that we all come together to guide AA into the future. She said that we were the guardians of AA so it is up to us to show up and to do the work. She shared that General Service helps people get sober; it has helped her stay sober by keeping her in the middle, a small part of a great whole. Julie ended by inviting everyone to the Preconferences in 2023. **Please see attached report.**

Corrections Report - Kevin L., Corrections Coordinator: Kevin began his report by saying that the 33rd Freedom From Bondage occurred in March and was held in-person. This is the first conference since 2020 which occurred just a few days before the state stopped all in-person events due to Covid. This year they had over 200 in attendance, four wonderful speaker meetings and four great workshops. We were told that CD copies of the conference are available from Mike Burns with Mountain Recordings. Next Kevin shared that slowly the prison meetings are coming back. He indicated that not all prisons were open but it was the first time in his position as Corrections Coordinator that he could say, "Prison meetings are open." He went on to say that, unfortunately, even some of the ones that are open are coming back as a different kind of meeting. He asked everyone to be patient and try not to get discouraged. However, if you are having trouble or need his help with any issue, he asked to be contacted by email at corrections@aanorthcarolina.org.
No report available.

Treatment Facilities Report – Stanley H., Treatment Facilities Coordinator: Stanley began by stating that since his last report he had not received any email requests for Bridging the Gap (BTG) from any treatment facility, although he had received multiple phone calls for contact information. He shared that he is working on making the BTG contact list digital which is taking longer than expected because he is doing all the entries himself due to confidentiality. He said that the NC Treatment Facility and Providers Handbook are available online at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/data/mhllist.pdf>. This link will provide you with a list of available providers and facilities. Next Stanley shared that he had attended both the Central and Eastern Pre-conferences and also the Freedom From Bondage conference where he exhibited his Treatment Facilities display. Stanley is currently trying to help coordinate a meeting at Behavior Health Inpatient Services at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem and requested assistance from districts 18,19,22,23, and 24. A meeting had occurred there previously and they are interested in getting it started again. He asked if there was anyone from those districts who would like to help, to please contact him at tf@aanorthcarolina.org. Finally, he shared he had one request for a TF kit for a new coordinator from District 33. The kit will provide all the materials a new coordinator would need to provide services for the groups in their district. Stanley concluded his report by communicating that in September the National BTG Workshop would be in San Diego and then thanked everyone for the opportunity to be of service. **Please See Attached Report.**

Agenda Item # 5

To approve the Chair's appointment of Linda N. of Mount Airy to complete the 2021-2022 term as Area 51 Public Information Coordinator.

Background Information: On January 4 2022, Marty M. submitted his resignation, effective immediately, as Area 51 PI Coordinator. In order to provide for the continuation of services and an efficient transition, the Chair appointed Linda N. as acting PI Coordinator effective on January 11, 2022. This position is appointed by the Area Chairperson with the approval of the Area

Assembly to complete the 2021-2022 term. The primary selection criteria are a demonstrated enthusiasm and experience in the particular service area, along with the ability to identify and access qualified resource people across North Carolina.

Linda N. has served in multiple group positions including Literature, Treasure, Secretary, Alternate GSR, and GSR. She has served as District Secretary as well as Alternate DCM and DCM.

Discussion: None

The Motion Passed Without Opposition.

PI Report – Linda N., PI Coordinator: Linda began by talking about the process with her Higher Power that led her to accept the position as PI Coordinator. She basically indicated that she heard that God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called, and that she hopes that He equips her. Then she jumped into her activities as the PI Coordinator. Her first event was a zoom event with the NC/SC Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She said it helped her begin learning the difference between public information versus advertising and/or promotion. Next she attended, also via zoom, the "Area Service Sharing Session" which is a monthly meeting for CPC and PI chairs from all Areas. The focus was Tradition Eleven and Public Information which she found very informative. Immediately following the Sharing Session was the first annual North America CPC & PI Conference. This too was very educational. Next she attended the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies in Greensboro where she, and the Area 51 CPC Coordinator, presented a seminar on anonymity and the 11th Tradition. Linda's next event was the Freedom From Bondage which left her filled with overwhelming gratitude and was followed by a wonderful Founder's Day picnic hosted by District 17. She shared that District 17 had been inactive for several years until Mary O. stepped up as DCM. Linda supported those efforts and contacted the local newspaper about putting their meeting list in the newspaper which they happily obliged. This is PI work in action. Linda expressed how much she has already learned in the short time she has been in this position. She realizes that she cannot cooperate with the professional community if the professional community does not know about A.A. In her initial research about PI, Linda found that Bill W. had once shared that "Public Information takes many forms - the simple sign outside a meeting place that says 'A.A. meeting tonight,' listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature; and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to 'one drunk carrying the message to another drunk.'" Linda mused what Bill might think of the current social media and its uses to reach people. In an attempt to coordinate local efforts and to be in contact with as much of the PI community around NC as possible, she is trying to have a bi-monthly zoom meeting for the PI's and the CPC's from each District. Her goal is to eventually have a representative from every District across the state. There will be a topic for discussion, as well as, an opportunity to network and brainstorm and share ideas. Linda asked that all District CPC/PI Coordinators (if the service position is not split) or the DCM for districts that do not currently have a CPC/PI Coordinator to contact her at pi@aanorthcarolina.org so she can send the monthly zoom link and have you added to the email list.

Please see attached report.

CPC Report – Jon T., CPC Coordinator: Jon began his report by expressing the gratitude he felt at being the CPC Coordinator for Area 51. He shared that this spring he had attended three pre-conferences, the Inaugural Southeast Area Health Education Center Conference and the NC Employee Assistance Program Conference in Winston-Salem. He has met with the Tri-County Intergroup CPC/PI Committee and is attending monthly zoom meetings with the Metrolina CPC/PI Committee. Jon shared that he assisted the CPC/PI Committee for District 51 when he attended their Founders Day event in Fayetteville. In July he is scheduled to be in Wilmington to help with a literature display at the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies where he will also present a workshop about anonymity. He expressed gratitude for Scott C., Alternate DCM D04 and Cathy M., CPC/PI chair who be assisting him with both the display and the workshop. Jon thanked several individuals for their support in his CPC efforts across the state. He concluded by saying that if he can be of service to any District or for any event to please contact him at cpc@aanorthcarolina.org.

Please see attached report.

Archives Report – Keith M., Archivist: Keith indicated that he was going to give an abbreviated, quick version of his report and that the full report can be found in the minutes. The short version was presented as a rhyme. "The Archives are good; the Archives are great. I am glad you put this service opportunity on my plate." He concluded his report by sharing that unfortunately his term as the Archivist was about over. By the end of next year there will be a new Archivist and he encouraged anyone interested to see him so he can share what the responsibilities entail. He said this had been his favorite service position in A.A. and he hoped there would be lots of applicants. **Please see attached report.**

Denise announced that the position of Archivist in Area 51 is a 6-year position and that Keith's term will be done at the end of 2023. She shared that in order to allow sufficient time for transition, the Area Committee will elect the next Area Archivist at the Winter 2023 Committee meeting. She encouraged everyone to spread the word at their home group. There is not a requirement to have served as a DCM to stand for this position. Applications will be posted on the website soon. She reiterated that anyone interested to know more about the duties and responsibilities of the Archivist, to please contact Keith.

Site Investigation Subcommittee Report – Craig H., Site Investigation Subcommittee Chair: Craig opened his report by thanking the subcommittee members for their dedicated service and hard work and for the support of past subcommittee chairs whose knowledge and experience had been invaluable. He shared that the subcommittee had met monthly via zoom working to secure a contract for the Winter Committee Meeting in 2025. He expressed gratitude that the subcommittee intended to present an agenda item for that event at the

Summer Committee Meeting and then approval at the Fall Election Assembly. Craig continued by conveying that the subcommittee is also working to secure viable venues across the state for the Area Committee Meetings, Area Assemblies, and the State Conventions to be held in 2025, 2026 and 2027. Craig concluded by thanking everyone for the opportunity to be of service to Area 51.

Please see attached report.

Convention Report – Elizabeth P., Convention Chair: Elizabeth began by announcing that the 2022 State Convention is July 7-10 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills and will be an in-person event. The theme this year is Love and Service. The speaker for Thursday night is Felix H., from Wilmington, who is one of Area 51's trusted servants. The Convention this year will include traditional events like the Old-Timers' Panel, marathon meetings, workshops and a dance. Elizabeth shared that two of the three speakers on the Old-Timers' Panel were present at this Assembly and there will be two Hispanic Workshops that Rick L. has agreed to translate into English. She thanked Rachel M. for her help with the workshops, Kenneth C. with the marathon meetings and Rick for his willingness to translate. Elizabeth shared that there will be a wide array of music at the dance, providing something for everyone. She also teased that there were some new things added this year that you would have to attend to discover. Current registration is 598 and they have exceeded the room block at the hotel. There are only 10 rooms currently available and they are on the Executive floor at a discounted rate of \$199.00 per night. Elizabeth communicated that registration for the Convention is open and that they still have several scholarships left to assist people who could not afford to come otherwise. Please contact Elizabeth if you know of someone who may need a scholarship. Elizabeth thanked the Convention Committee, not only for the incredible work they have done preparing for this Convention, but also for stepping up and going beyond when she was experiencing some health issues last year. She expressed deep gratitude for all that the Committee had done, especially Alana, and for the opportunity to serve as the Convention Chair. Elizabeth concluded by inviting everyone to come celebrate their sobriety at the NC State Convention. **Please see attached report.**

AGENDA ITEM # 6

To approve the Chair's appointment of Alana E. of Durham as Area 51 Convention Chair for the period 2023-2024.

Background Information: The Area 51 Convention Chair for the period 2023-2024 serves by the appointment of the Area Chairperson and approval of the Area Assembly. The appointment is made during the spring of the preceding year to allow the incoming Convention Chair to observe the planning, conducting and reporting of the N.C. State Convention by the current Convention Chair and the Convention Committee. The job description of the Area 51 Convention Chair includes the following:

- Previous experience as a DCM is not required, although some general service experience is desirable;
- Has a voice and a vote in Area Committee and Assembly proceedings, but not eligible to stand for area office unless a past DCM;
- Under the general guidance and as a member of the Area 51 General Service Committee, plans, organizes and conducts the annual N.C. State Convention;
- Conducts all convention plans in accordance with GSO-documented guidelines for conferences and conventions, and A.A.'s Twelve Traditions;
- Selects a Convention Committee to work with the Convention Chair and Convention Alternate Chair in planning and conducting the Convention;
- Responsible to the Area 51 Committee and Assembly for keeping operating expenses in line with the fiscal objective that the Convention be paid for out of registration fees of attendees and, if needed, from the approved prudent reserve in the Area 51 treasury;
- Responsible for the Convention checking account and for overseeing the collection of registration fees and payment of convention expenses;
- Prepares written financial reports, accounting fully and precisely to the Area 51 Committee and Assembly on the use of Convention funds;
- Participates in and reports at all Area 51 Committee Meetings and Assemblies;
- Serves on the Area Site Investigation subcommittee;
- Works closely with the host hotel in making detailed plans for the Convention according to the Area 51 contract with the hotel; and
- Attends the Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies and the State Convention each year.

Alana currently serves as Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2021-2022. She has served on the State Convention Committee as Convention Registrar for four years and as an assistant with Registrations before that. Alana is a former Alternate DCM and DCM from District 32 and currently serves on the Site Investigation subcommittee.

Discussion: None

The Motion Passed Without Opposition.

Agenda Item # 7

To approve the Chair's appointment of Lizzy T. of Durham as Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2023-2024.

Background Information: The Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair for the period 2023-2024 serves by the appointment of the Area Chairperson and approval of the Area Assembly. The appointment is made during the spring of the preceding year to allow the incoming Convention Alternate Chair to observe the role of the Convention Alternate Chair in planning, conducting and reporting of the N.C. State Convention. The job description of the Area 51 Convention Alternate Chair includes the following:

- Previous experience as a DCM is not required, although some general service experience is desirable;

- Has a voice but no vote in Area Committee and Assembly proceedings (if the Convention Chair is absent, the Alternate Convention Chair may vote);
- Is not eligible to stand for area office;
- Maintains readiness to fill in for the Convention Chair should the Convention Chair be unable to serve at required functions;
- Assists the Convention Chair with duties as requested;
- Serves on the Area Site Investigation subcommittee;
- Serves on the Convention Committee to work with the Convention Chair in planning and conducting the Convention; and
- Attends the Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies and the State Convention each year.

Lizzy currently serves on the State Convention Committee as Registrar and was the backup registrar before that. She has also served as Webmaster & Data Entry for the Committee. Lizzy has served as Alternate GSR and GSR in District 32. She has also held the positions of Webmaster as well as Secretary for District 32.

Discussion: None

The Motion Passed Without Opposition.

Webmaster Report – Kavaruss C., Webmaster: Kavaruss opened his report by thanking Nancy, the website subcommittee chair, and the members of the web team for their amazing job on the continued improvements for the website. He also had a special thanks to Denise and Greg who handled many of the contact us requests. Kavaruss indicated that they currently list meetings on the website at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/meetings/>. The list pulls from all the districts/intergroups that have synced with the Meeting Guide App. If someone doesn't see their local meeting on the list, then that meeting may not be synced to the Meeting Guide App and Kavaruss requested that the district webmaster for that meeting to contact him at webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org. The goal is to sync meetings to the Meeting Guide App so newcomers can find local meetings quickly. Next Kavaruss reported there is a continued focus to ensure that the website is loading and performing as efficiently as possible. They have added a Frequently Asked Questions page that should help users trying to navigate the website and find pertinent information. He indicated that the committee welcomes suggestions about user experience and style of the website by using the Contact Us link. Also, by clicking on the Events link, you can see all the events that have been scheduled. They are expanding the list of events that can be posted on the website for notices of Area 51 intergroup, district and YPAA-sponsored events. He asked that you reach out to the subcommittee for any new event that you would like posted as long as they adhere to the website policies that can be found on the website at <https://aanorthcarolina.org/policies-guidelines-bestpractices/>. Kavaruss stated they have made some updates to the contacts page. They still plan to have a contacts page for every Area Officer, Service Coordinator, Convention and Subcommittee/workgroup. They have been working through details to add information and links for the Archives data as well as adding pertinent information about CPC and Accessibilities. He suggested that all Area Committee members provide the website team with the content you would like to see on your page. Lastly, Kavaruss said that each request made gets logged and prioritized. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please email the website chair at webchair@aanorthcarolina.org and copy him at webmaster@aanorthcarolina.org and they will follow up as soon as reasonably possible. Kavaruss thanked Area 51 for allowing him to serve. **Please see attached report.**

Denise shared that the Webmaster is not appointed by the Area Chair but selected by the website subcommittee. If you would like to be considered, you can email your resume to the Chair at chair@aanorthcarolina.org. The criteria and resume for Webmaster position can be found on the website under Service Opportunities.

Spanish Language Report – Rick L., Spanish Language Interpreter: Rick opened by indicating that he was going to give his report in both English and Spanish. He began by indicating that since the Fall Assembly he has had several opportunities to be of service. The first event was via zoom and was the CPC/PI Conference held on February 12th and 13th. He translated the conference for the Spanish audience in attendance. The next event was the Winter Committee Meeting which he also translated for the Spanish language members. After that, Rick shared that he translated at the Freedom From Bondage Conference on March 11-13, the Tri-Area Intergroup Grapevine workshop on April 2nd, the Eastern Pre-Conference on April 9th and finally at the Spanish Pre-Conference on April 10th. His last event is this event, the Spring Committee and Assembly, which he also translated for the Spanish language audience. Finally, Rick shared that he has recently purchased ten much needed receivers to replace defective ones in the inventory and that he has received some potential leads on his replacement as Interpreter for Area 51 as his service position will expire at the end of the year. He ended his report by thanking the fellowship for the opportunity to be of service. **Please see attached report.**

Accessibilities Report - Karen B., Accessibilities Coordinator: Karen began her report by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Accessibilities Coordinator. She reflected on how much she has learned about the overwhelming amount of accessibility issues that confront many members in our fellowship as they journey through their daily recovery. She soon realized that these challenges were much larger than needing a ride and or having a meeting with a handicap accessible doorway and it became one of her priorities to communicate those issues and to raise awareness. She prayed for direction and assistance and she received both. First she began by making posters to help inform people of the numerous and diverse needs that face the fellowship. But she has also realized that although having posters are helpful, having district or intergroup committees across the state was needed if reaching those individuals that may be hard to reach were to happen. To that end, Karen shared that she is currently working with the website subcommittee to have important information available on the website pertaining to accessibility tools that would benefit a district or intergroup wanting to start a committee. She continues to have monthly zoom meetings on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm for anyone interested in learning more about accessibilities. They are studying the Accessibilities handbook and discussing its contents. Karen stated that if she can be of service to any group, district or intergroup to please contact her at access@aanorthcarolina.org or if anyone wants her to email them the link for the monthly zoom meeting. Karen ended by thanking everyone again for the privilege to serve as the Area 51 Accessibilities Coordinator. **Please see attached report.**

Inventory Review/ Next Steps

Denise thanked everyone who participated in the Inventory, both this weekend and earlier by submitting comments on the Inventory form. She expressed excitement to see what Growth and Maintenance does with the suggestions and the possible changes that could result from the process. She did, however, share that this is just the first step. The online submission deadline has been extended to July 31 to allow any additional thoughts that might be generated from the discussion heard during the in-person Inventory and then shared later with home groups. The next step is for the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee to review and evaluate all the information once received. They will report their findings to the Area Committee and Assembly at future events. The Area Chair will determine what action might be needed, based on the G & M Inventory Report. This could include the creation of an Ad-hoc subcommittee, sending initiatives to an existing standing subcommittee, or presenting an item to the Committee and Assembly for consideration. Denise extended a final thanks to everyone for participating in the Inventory.

New Business: None

Sharing Session – “What’s On Your Mind”/ “Ask-It Basket”

Denise reminded everyone who had made a report this weekend to please email a copy to Lisa at secretary@aanorthcarolina.org and that the two bins in the back of the room were for group change forms that need to be updated in the Area database and badges to be recycled. She expressed the importance of making reservations early at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills for the Fall Election Assembly to be held November 19-20 in order to be guaranteed the contracted room rate. She then asked Rainer L., and Diana L. to join her on the dais for the Sharing Session/Ask-It- Basket portion of the Assembly. Denise explained this is an opportunity to bring forward any ideas and concerns, or ask questions about things you may not understand and they will also address questions posed in the Ask-It-Basket box. Banner and literature drawings will be held at the end of the session.

Denise M., Chair: One suggestion in the box is to add an additional screen for viewing in the back of the room and that is a really good idea and the Committee will talk about that. This is an especially long room and I appreciate that some in the back my not have been able to see all the visuals projected up on the screen.

Roger A., DCM D11: In keeping with the spirit of the Inventory and I was talking with some of my young GSRs about the process that we went through last night and we all agreed that the first part of the process was wonderful, the sharing, the ideas; however, the second part of the process where we listened to six different reporters basically repeat the same information one after another in redundancy, that this wasn’t successful. My GSR suggested that when we complete that first session, we review what we have heard, and that each reporter that follows only shares or adds comments that have not been already given so that we are not hearing the same suggestions six times.

Denise M., Chair: There are a couple of comment cards that ask that cookies be provided at every Assembly (laughter and applause). Unfortunately, those cookies were not cheap so I don’t know if this is something we can do at every Assembly, but comment noted. Another comment about food was to please be aware that many individuals cannot or choose not to eat meat, gluten, dairy etc and it would be great (funds permitting) to offer alternatives. That is another good comment. We have time for one more.

Tony S., DCM, D43: I know we had the agenda item last night that failed to pass about post-Conference events and I was just wondering because we have a good contact with Grapevine podcasts, would it be possible to invite the Delegate to sit with Don in a podcast and go over what happened at the Conference that we could always go back to at any time and listen to that podcast?

7th Tradition Basket collected \$1006.92 and will be sent to GSB. Coffee contributions were \$33.00 and the Early Bird meeting collected \$96.00 for a total of \$129.00 that will be deposited into Area 51.

Banner Raffle: “Growth is Inevitable”: Chris H., Alternate DCM D02.

Literature Raffle: 1. As Bill Sees It: Ruth G., GSR, Lotta Hope Group.

2. The Language of the Heart: Wanda C., DCM D31.

Closing Remarks

Denise thanked everyone for their dedication and a wonderful weekend. She wished all the dads a wonderful Father’s Day and indicated that she looked forward to seeing everyone again in Raleigh in November.

The Assembly was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa P, Secretary

Note: Reports are listed in the order in which they were presented except the financials are at the end.

Treasurer's Report: See Financial Statements at the end.

Grapevine Report:

Spring Assembly Grapevine Report

Hello fellow trusted Area 51 servants!! My name is Brooks D. I am an alcoholic and am currently serving as your Area Grapevine Coordinator. It is wonderful to be here in Charlotte with y'all and if you have not heard yet there is another new book from the Grapevine, Fun in Sobriety, and it is in stock at the Grapevine table so come see me when you have a break!!

At my first Founders Day celebration last weekend in Dobson, NC the District 17 DCM, Mary O, got to purchase the very first issue of Fun In Sobriety available thru me and the rest sold like hotcakes! As I traveled last weekend to celebrate AA's 87th Anniversary I got to also go to District 12's Unity Day in Hickory where they had a full day of activity and ended with a speaker from right here in Charlotte.

Sunday brought travels to Hendersonville, NC to celebrate District 71's Founders Day where I got to spread not only some Grapevine Goodness – I believe the best seller was the joke book When a Rabbit Walks Into a Bar – but also some experience strength and hope!!

The Grapestompers invited me to their quarterly event in District 34 back in April where I got to meet the newest La Vina Coordinator, Marcos, from District 30. Just recently he was able to help get us some La Vinas to carry into the Wake County jail. We are working on getting him a La Vina Instagram banner for part of his display.

Speaking of Instagram...When I reached out to Chris C, the GV publisher, he let me know that on Instagram the Grapevine currently has 7,556 followers while La Vina has reached 874 followers. If you would like to have access to the Grapevine Daily Quote, the newest book titles and much, much more just start following too at [alcoholicsanonymous_g.v](https://www.alcoholicsanonymous_g.v).

If any of y'all were at the Grapevine workshop this morning then you know that Don from the Grapevine Podcast came and shared in the fun!! It is no wonder that the podcast downloads are up 45% in the last 90 days with a total of 142,286 downloads with such an enthusiastic co-host!! We got to create a Grapevine Podcast banner so he can interview in style from here on out! Please take the time to visit

www.aagrapevine.org/podcast and start listening today!! Also, after you purchase (only \$11.50) and read the newest GV book, Fun in Sobriety, you can call or write with comments and reflections on its contents on August 22 on the home page: aagrapevine.org/podcast, email: podcast@aagrapevine.org or phone 212-870-3418.

Lastly, Chris C said that a Spanish-Language Emotional Sobriety book is to be published in September.

I am ready and willing to travel with the Grapevine books and displays so come talk to me this weekend, look for me at the North Carolina State Convention July 7-10 in Raleigh or email me at: grapevine@aanorthcarolina.org and we can get something set up!!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Brooks

Delegate's Report:

Hello, my name is Rainer L. and I am an alcoholic. I want to welcome you all to the Area 51 Spring Assembly and extend my prayers both to you and your weekend. I have found my tribe, here in General Service. That can be every bit as true at our gatherings as it is in our home groups. There is a spiritual experience waiting for you this weekend, and I hope you find it and cultivate it, as you find and cultivate connections with each other. Everything that we experience in service happens on the framework of our personal recovery and the principles of AA Tradition. With my Third Step I learned that "first of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work." I learned that my most persistent old idea is that I know what's best. In our Second Tradition I was introduced to the expression of a loving God through a group conscience. And as I ask each day what I can do for the alcoholic who still suffers, as God constantly discloses more to me, I had a Conference experience that entirely reset my faith in our future.

In my Fourth Step, I learned that "I step on the toes of others and they retaliate." I never paused to consider the possibility that my actions had an impact upon others. In our Fourth Tradition, I seized on the idea of autonomy, which has always been a personal favorite. But the second phrase "except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole" came alive in service. It was in service, in representing my group, District 03, our Area, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, that I learned the value of consulting those affected. And these are the two things I hope to share throughout this report: the value of consultation and the value of faith in the God of our Second Tradition.

So, this is my report back from the 72nd General Service Conference. But what is the General Service Conference? Article 1 of the Conference Charter says that "The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only, never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous." At the workshops this morning, we displayed our upside-down triangle. I had always thought of this as the General Service Structure, but I recently realized that I was missing the mark. This is the "Structure of the Conference." The Conference is so much more than just its Annual Meeting. The Conference is literally the groups, GSRs, Districts, Areas and Service Boards which comprise it.

Have you ever been to a Fifth Step meeting where the discussion was on the Fourth Step? Well welcome to this Post-Conference Delegates report, now let's talk about the PreConferences. How many of you attended a PreConference this year? Again to the Charter, Article 3 says that "The Conference will act for AA in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services, and it will also be the vehicle by which the AA movement can express its views upon all matters of vital AA policy and all hazardous deviations from AA Tradition. Delegates should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion, or their own instruction." I did that, and we did that, at PreConference events across North Carolina from late March to mid-April. The participation and principle that members displayed at these events, in sharing their perspectives, desires and concerns, was beyond value. Your time and energy at these events is what enabled me to stand and serve. And it will mean just as much to future Delegates and the future of AA as a whole.

Article 3 is what set the stage for the new format that we used at this year's PreConferences. And while objectively talking about what questions should be taken to the group level, I believe that it applies very well to reporting. I want very much to provide a thorough account of the General Service Conference. I want to tell you all everything. But there will be things that I don't introduce or discuss. There's just too much, and rather than shortchange everything by trying to cover it all, I'll be limiting the scope somewhat. Which means that you'll have homework.

Additional resources will be made available online at our website. There will be a list of all Advisory Actions, of all Committee Considerations, and

of all Recommendations which did not pass. Some of the activity from the Conference speaks for itself, and can be presented accurately through a static post on the website.

Please take the time to look at those resources, to share them with members of your groups and districts, emailing me if you have any questions. I can offer a full explanation of the Conference discussion. If there are things that you don't hear during this report, ask about them tomorrow during the sharing session. Drop a question in the Ask-it Basket. I want to have a full discussion as much as possible, and I would like that to happen for us as a group so that we're all receiving the same information. But there were actions and no-actions at the Conference which cannot be simply reported. I first heard years ago that sometimes what is not as important as why. For the things which I believe are most meaningful and tangible, for the things which could cause confusion or fall astray of misinterpretation, I want to provide a full reporting that covers not only the action but the motive as well.

Several months ago, I ran into a past Delegate from the Chicago Area who served with Jennifer on Panel 61. He found out I was a current Delegate, and asked me what my second year thing was going to be. Turns out that every 2nd year Delegate is given a part to play at the Conference. I had no idea what he was talking about, but found out a few days later when I received a loving invitation to carry a microphone around the room during a sharing session. From beginning to end, my experience was blessed, starting with this humble opportunity and lesson in listening.

Luckily, I did find my voice early on at the Conference and became an active participant beginning with our first Delegates-only meeting. These are typically opportunities for orientation, sharing experience, and asking questions. Our Delegate Chair opened the meeting by saying that there was a long history of passing Advisory Actions at these meetings, and that with the voting proportion of Area Delegates we could effectively conduct business without involving the missing third of the Conference. We began the session with a powerpoint presentation on what would have been a fairly benign piece of business, if it had been brought forward as such. There were two pre-selected Delegates to share their support for the presentation. And when the floor was opened for discussion, I was ready, waiting at the microphone to share how uncomfortable I felt with the orchestration and apparent intention to pre-form a caucus before engaging on the Conference floor.

The Conference is made up of Area Delegates, Trustees, Non-Trustee Directors, Alcoholic Staff members of GSO. As the Conference starts, we all become Conference members, with equal footing and equal voice. But the different roles we hold afford us with different perspectives. I can share the thoughts and concerns from home, while a staff member can share about the day-to-day challenges of maintaining the Delegate dashboard. Forming a group conscience is a spiritual and collective engagement which requires diverse input from a variety of perspectives. To be representative, and to bring to life the God of our 2nd Tradition, we need a broad participation, not the narrow vision of a select few. These two experiences, whole-hearted listening and a protective interest in motive and process were my effective guides during the Conference.

So this is apparently the season for inventory. As you hopefully know, later this evening we'll be conducting an Area Inventory for the first time in nearly a decade. At the General Service Conference, there was a request for a status report on the progress and outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference inventory, as well as the preparation of a draft plan for another inventory. This will be presented at the 73rd GSC. Given the amount of other Conference business, and the workload involved in planning and conducting an inventory, I believe this will be another multi-year process.

It's time to get ready for AA's Membership Survey. This triennial survey was last conducted in 2014. It's been a slow process reevaluating the survey questions, and there were pandemic disruptions. But the questionnaire is now approved. There were some great points made during discussion on ways to elicit the best possible responses. To that end, I believe that, along with common answers, we will also be leaving blanks to allow for the opportunity for members to provide their own terms and answers. I can't say that definitely, or provide concrete details on the timing of the survey, because by floor action the survey needs a final editorial review by the trustees' Public Information Committee to ensure accuracy around racial and ethnic background and employment status.

After spanning the last 5 Conferences, the Conference approved the procedure to reorganize the Board "as one acceptable pathway to a whole or partial reorganization of the Boards, understanding that, as provided by the Conference Charter, the final process will be determined by whichever General Service Conference might be considering reorganization." There was clear appreciation for the work of developing this procedure and a clear hope that we will never need to use it. Stemming from the concerns of past Conferences, we felt that it was important to have a procedure in place. And looking forward, we felt it important to consider the autonomy of a future Conference in determining exact details.

The LinkedIn page is still a work-in-progress. A report from a digital analyst led to a request for a plan to increase the cadence of posts. An increased and established frequency would increase page visits and benefit keyword search results through the regular release of content. And there continue to be efforts to better utilize our Class A Trustees for posts to professionals on anonymity, self-support, cooperation without affiliation, and public relations.

We approved a draft of the "Young People and AA" pamphlet. It provided a very effective presentation of what we used to be like, what happened, what we're like now. In the development process, it was well received by YPAA gatherings. At Conference, there were questions about having geographic identifiers listed within the stories. But there was substantial support for this revision and the Committee's recommendation.

We agreed to revise the pamphlet "Do you think you're different." While the pamphlet was revised as recently as 2018, that was a matter of formatting. The stories were collected in 1976. And there are a couple of things which have changed in the last 46 years. We asked that the stories in the revised draft present a growing understanding, from the initial thoughts of difference to the recognition of our common bond. A presentation of content in sections, like the "Young People and AA" revision, could be a really nice touch.

The "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet will be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustration. I wasn't happy about this given recent history and frequent use. This is one of the most commonly used pamphlets, with a high annual circulation. Last year there was roughly 85% support for continuing to print this pamphlet, despite the approval of a second Traditions Illustrated pamphlet. For me, the timing felt off and the need felt questionable. A draft will be brought before next year's Literature Committee, and while I questioned the decision, I do have full trust and confidence in our process and next year's committee.

On the motion to change terminology in the "AA Group" pamphlet from holding office to trusted service, the Conference took no action. We talked a lot about language, about how the wording was of course quite optional, provided that it voiced the intent. While consistency is important to carrying a clear message, we felt that using different terminology allows for a freedom of understanding rather than a prescribed meaning. It provided different access points for our membership, and provided a variation which can allow for a growing understanding. And we noted that making one change could lead to a list of requests for change, a ripple effect for "term of office," "group officers," etc.

The recommendation to restore the missing paragraph from the story "Freedom from Bondage" failed, largely due to the proximity to the 5th edition release and the current cull of stories from the 4th Edition. This change would have entailed a larger effort regarding the printing schedule, and typesetting for the Braille, large print, small print, and pocket edition Big Books. Fundamentally, I think it just didn't seem to be a worthwhile change with another edition already in production. There may have been as many as 6 stories shortened in the 4th edition to benefit pagination. I believe that removed content may be organically reinstated in the 5th edition, if those stories continue to be printed and if the layout concerns are no longer present.

The Committee did not recommend the proposed relocation of the Dr. Opinion to page 1. But delivering their opinion as a Committee Consideration did allow the Conference to ask some questions. The Committee noted Bill's role in repaginating the 2nd edition, and did not feel that there was a strong spiritual need to revert to the original pagination. There is also a degree of effort which would be involved in making this change, with impacts to the Daily Reflections, As Bill Sees It, etc., which would be a challenging task to maintain consistency.

The Conference Committee decided to take no action on including the GSR Preamble in the GSR pamphlet. They felt that the role was already adequately described, and that use of this statement is better left to local group autonomy. I found the whole idea of a GSR Preamble to be a bit weird considering the autonomy and freedom which our Program affords us. Perhaps not to the degree of a Pledge of General Service Allegiance, but still something which would only offer prescriptive value. There was a floor action made, bringing this item up again. However, by a single vote the Conference declined to consider that action. The single vote came up several times, and while there obviously needs to be some threshold for a decision, while there is an obvious value in substantial unanimity, it always twists my heart a bit when it's a one or two vote margin. Given the value we place on the minority opinion, and how often I've seen a single relevant share change the opinions of a service body, I wonder if there isn't a better threshold. At least for the consideration and discussion of an item. If 32% of the Conference felt that this was worth discussion, perhaps those Conference members should have an opportunity to explain why.

As another example, there was a floor action which proposed that "The General Service Conference impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda item received, with new agenda items held to be placed on the agenda for the 74th GSC, allowing the GSB and its corporate affiliates time to adjust and align their processes to accommodate simultaneous translation of background material." The second part of that will make more sense a little later on when I start talking about translation practices. The Conference declined to consider this item by 2 votes. This could have been a good idea or it could have been a bad idea. But given the volume of the agenda, and the number of projects currently in the works, I thought this at least deserved consideration and full discussion. There are unstated benefits to clearing the pipeline, to reducing the number of current projects, to addressing the dilution of time and attention that these projects receive. There can be a value within a motion which isn't made fully clear within the motion. That's why we have discussion, to allow and encourage members to share their thoughts and perspectives.

There was a lot of discussion about safety topics in AA literature. This is something I've been paying attention to since October 2014 when the Area approved submitting an agenda item to the Conference "that language be added to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet that encourages groups to recognize their role in creating a safe AA meeting." Some efforts have been well-received, like the Safety Card. Others, like the service piece "Safety in AA – Our Common Welfare," received a very mixed reaction. Entering into these discussions, I feel that it is important to have the involvement of the Conference in proposing and approving language, that the particulars not be left to the editorial discretion of individuals. I felt that it was important to see safety framed as an extension of our Traditions, as a portion of "the best answer experience has offered to the ever-urgent questions of "how can AA best function" and "how can AA stay whole and so survive." Having a safe meeting place is one of the fundamental elements of offering an open welcome to a new member, of creating a place where we can focus on our primary purpose, uphold our singleness of purpose, and focus on being a reflection of the principles which have saved our lives.

There were changes made, and proposals which failed. In the chapter "Going to AA meetings" in the book *Living Sober*, we added a paragraph which says "Of course, AA is a reflection of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of AA. But by keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose, groups can help provide a safe and secure environment for all their members." We also added language in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" in the section "How does sponsorship help a group." The new language says "Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on the common welfare." I believe that this type of general description provides a greater service to the fellowship than other language which is overly directive.

One proposed addition which failed would have been in the same pamphlet, this time within the section "What does a sponsor do and not do?" The proposed language read "Stresses the importance of AA being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as "Safety in AA – Our Common Welfare." We felt this language was prescriptive in assigning responsibility to sponsors. And there were concerns about the specific reference to service material. Some of that may be due to recent events and concerns about the process of creating service material.

One of the additional documents which will be posted in the Delegate's Corner of the aanorthcarolina.org website will be a presentation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups. It will give you the best and broadest understanding of current efforts and explorations. The Conference Committee on Agenda requested that the 73rd General Service Conference hold an interactive sharing session on the successes and challenges at the group, district, and area levels with the participation of online groups. I want to thank District 18 and Area 51 as a whole for being at the forefront of thinking about how we can include online only meetings within the General Service Structure.

There was a floor action that "the trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups develop a plan to create one or more non-geographic Areas for online and telephone groups in the US/Canada General Service Conference structure, with a progress report on the plan to be presented to the 73rd GSC Committee on Policy and Admissions." This motion failed, but it led to some fantastic discussion; discussion which I think will serve us well in the future. When we have a full discussion on the issues, pass or fail, those thoughts and expressions are heard by all in attendance, and they guide us to better future proposals with progress being characterized as a series of improving compromises.

The Ad Hoc subcommittee was created after the 71st, and I hope you'll agree that their presentation was wonderful. Learning into the lessons learned from the 71st Conference, we felt that there wasn't a need for haste, that it was important to allow the new Committee time, and that a good idea today will still be a good idea tomorrow. There was a recognition that this issue doesn't just affect us in the US/Canada. There are other autonomous GSOs around the world, and it's important to consult with them at the World Meeting. To find out what they are doing to include the online groups. We focus on the autonomy of the 4th Tradition, but there is a great spiritual significance within the 2nd phrase "except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." By being patient, we do not tie the hands of the subcommittee or of future Conferences. By charging the Trustees with forming a plan for a non-geographic Area, we could be missing something broader, bigger, or more visionary. Perhaps the

creation of an autonomous GSO for online groups would be the best answer? We simply don't know. Creating a non-geographic Area seems like a good thing, but the good can be the enemy of the best. Doing something now seems like a good thing, but perhaps now can also be the enemy of the future. Ultimately, we felt that the answers needed to come from the top of the triangle, not from the bottom. We felt that this deserves to go fully through our process, and not to originate as a floor action. Serving AA as a whole means including the whole, using our whole process, and not proceeding into an action of this magnitude though a floor action.

We also approved new language in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity." The new language reads:

"Q. Are virtual AA meetings considered "Public"?"

A. These online gatherings are not streamed to the general public; however, information about the meetings is provided to AA members, potential members, and the general public similar to in-person meetings.

While some members feel comfortable using their full names and faces, other members feel it is more aligned with Tradition 11 to use only their first name and last initial, or turning their camera off. For safety purposes some groups have provided helpful reminders in their group format that picture-taking or screenshots are not in keeping with anonymity principles."

There was a vocal portion of the Conference which felt that the public forum question was not addressed within the answer. There were concerns about login information being on publicly available websites. I couldn't quite grasp the concern. Visiting the Wilmington Area Intergroup, I can see the login information for a group using Zoom, but I can also see that Midday is meeting at 5901 Wrightsville Ave. Full names, last initials, it seems to me to be just like my in-person experiences where people identify themselves differently according to principle and sponsorship. Aren't these all exact experiences of members' choice just with an online venue instead of an in-person gathering? If you feel that there is a public concern to an online meeting, I hope you'll find me on the break, because I would like to better understand. I asked a few Delegates at the Conference around the coffee pot, trying to get a better understanding. For the moment, I just don't understand the concern.

Over the last several years, we have been talking about the Comprehensive Media Plan or CMP, conversations which originated with some unfavorable results from a communications audit. One place where we have seen an effort to implement the CMP is with our illustrated pamphlets. Last year, we approved a new 12 Traditions Illustrated pamphlet, while retaining the original pamphlet. This year, there was a recommendation to approve the draft "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" with minor editorial revisions. This failed as there were many expressed problems with the feeling, color, and illustration content, which led to the pamphlet feeling out of balance and not in-line with other pamphlets. The needed changes felt like much more than minor editorial revisions. This was an item previously reconsidered, and so after failing it was effectively dead. However, there was a floor action charging the Trustees' Committee with continued edits to the draft pamphlet, with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 73rd GSC.

There was also a recommendation that the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" be adapted and produced by the Publishing Department. This is one of the things which I'm most excited to be sharing with you, so here's the UK video. <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/About-AA/12-Concepts>

I really feel like this is an amazing and incredible example of the CMP, of how we can effectively present content in a way which is modern and traditional, fresh but also proven. It shows how we can extend the ideas of vision, medium, and relevancy to effectively reach our audience, whether that's a current or a future member. Our literature tells us that the verdict of the ages is that faith means courage. We are only limited by our imagination and courage in coming up with new ways to present our proven message of recovery. The Twelve Traditions are our guardrails, but there is a wide and fertile opportunity in front of us for the reimagination of how we are presenting content.

I also think that it's worth noting that not everything needs to be complete. Some of the sharing at Conference expressed concern that some information wasn't fully covered in the video, that the service manual presents an additional depth of content and exploration of ideas. Our pamphlets and videos are secondary content. They open doors by beginning to express ideas, by introducing topics for future consideration. Our pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" is not a definitive resource. It relies on ongoing conversation, sponsorship, experience and prayer. Similarly, the Twelve Concepts Illustrated does not need to be the definite source for all spiritual and informational substance. Other literature will present a deeper understanding, our experience will provide a new context, and God will constantly disclose more. We just need an attractive and accessible point of introduction.

I went into the Conference seriously entertaining the idea of making a floor action to stipulate that the Plain and Simple language translation of the Big Book bypass the typical translation process and come back to the Conference as a finished product for final approval. I realized early in the week that this was a silly idea, and one that was caught up with as much ego as desire to safeguard our heritage. There is plenty of time in a multiyear process for a motion like that to be appropriately made, placed before a Conference Committee, and discussed at PreConference events. There just wasn't the urgency to justify a floor action. The Conference Committee on Literature reviewed progress reports, and will either receive more progress reports or a draft manuscript at the 73rd Conference.

I hope that you appreciated getting to see some raw and unedited examples of Plain and Simple language, that were included from the translator as part of the background material. I want to make sure you understand that this was really a novel thing; materials like this have not historically been shared as part of the Conference background. Sharing them was an important statement by the Trustees and several Committees, understanding the importance of this project to the Fellowship, and the value of transparency in this undertaking. And if you need a good anecdote about the difference that it made, think about talking to Pat.

I don't have particular information to share about the timeline for translation. But during questions regarding the Literature Committee's Considerations, one of the Trustees said that this is "not a guarantee in any way, but based upon the most current information, there are some small hopes of having a draft manuscript of the Plan and Simple Translation ready for the 73rd GSC. And there have never been discussions or intentions of direct release without Conference review and approval." And there should be more information following the July Board Weekend.

There was a Floor Action concerning the Plain and Simple translation, which moved that "The Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts" not be translated into plain language in any way." This action wasn't considered, but please don't think that means that we'll have translated simple steps – the steps are protected. Rather, I think the decision not to engage this motion was a hesitancy, or learned wisdom, at the 72nd GSC about engaging in floor actions. This was a definite lesson from the 71st Conference. Particularly in a multi-year process, where an agenda item could go through thorough discussion and the full preconference season, there is no need for a floor action.

I would like to ask for a little help regarding this project, a small homework assignment. I think we cleared up a lot of confusion through the PreConference process, and I think we're in a much better place of clear understanding than we were 6 months ago. But I think it's work worth continuing, for the preservation of our unity. Please help make sure that the members in your groups and districts understand that this is an additional resource, not a revision or replacement. It really helped me to hear from one Delegate, that she would have firmly supported making

fundamental change to the Big Book, but that having a secondary book which a person could more easily pick up and understand had taken away that need, and returned her to a place of wanting to maintain the integrity of our basic text.

The Preamble revision and changes within the Twelve and Twelve were major topics at our PreConferences, and they were heavily discussed by several Conference Committees. There was no action brought before the full Conference for discussion, but there were clarifying questions asked based upon the Committee Considerations. The Grapevine Committee reported their unanimous sense at the beginning of Committee work that there was no appetite to discuss rescinding the revision. They also expressed a clear understanding that we are only partially informed by having heard only a portion of the Fellowship's voice. The Literature Committee expressed similar sentiment regarding changes in the Twelve and Twelve, saying "There does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among AA members at a local level.

How is that possible after the consensus and group conscience achieved at the 71st Conference? Personally, I can tell you that I don't have a problem reconciling the two ideas. I've learned a lot in the last year, and I've spoken with many members who were uninformed, uninvited, or otherwise not included in the process leading up to the 71st General Service Conference. I've come to better understand patience, the importance of pace and moving slowly, of how despite the integrity of the effort a goal might be only partially realized. My goal in preparing for the 71st Conference was to be fully informed about member concerns, to hear from as many as possible. And there isn't an easy answer to why that didn't happen, to why I didn't realize that it hadn't happened. It's more than just pandemic disruptions, transition to Zoom, and problematic participation based upon a breakdown in communication. I had heard from a wide variety of people, heard a wide variety of perspectives both for and against. And I went to Conference without a set decision. I was simply as "open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the only the dying can be."

As I said, I've learned a lot in the last year, and I've talked to a lot of new people. I got to hear from a lot of people who didn't have adequate opportunity to share their thoughts. Our service is based upon participation, and we need to take pains to make sure that we are all given a full opportunity to exercise our right of participation. We also need to remember that our priority is the expression of ideas and principles, rather than simply upon individual expression. We ask members to consider whether their points have already been adequately expressed, and the ideas shared in leading up to the Conference were fully considered at last year's Conference. In substance and principle, the decision to revise the Preamble was a fully informed expression of a group conscience. But there are procedural questions which still leave me wondering whether or not we made a mistake. I believe the answer lies in our basic principles and literature.

"Crushed by a self-imposed crisis we could not postpone or evade, we had to fearlessly face the proposition that either God is everything or else He is nothing. God either is or He isn't. What was our choice to be?" God has been in every experience that I've had, in my every mistake and triumph. In action, whether experience or mistake, the important thing is always prayerful reflection and the subsequent step.

There was a lot of discussion at Conference and afterwards about how to gather sufficient Fellowship sharing to make a determination about our opinions. People are asking what mechanism do we have for the creation of consensus and a group conscience? I think the answers are simple: we gather sufficient fellowship sharing by holding PreConferences, by upholding our spiritual responsibilities to involve and include. The mechanism we have for creating consensus is our Conference process, the spiritual framework God gave us to delegate and trust. We can cut God out of AA and develop some bureaucratic polling process. Or we can cling to our spiritual principles of trust, faith, and footwork. Delegating authority is a spiritual exercise in trust. Trusting that God will express Himself through our Conference Delegates is an act of faith. And faith is in your feet, made real by showing up to share at a PreConference. If I am sincere in my trust and faith, at some point I have to relax the death-grip I have on my life and let God take the wheel.

One of the big topics at the Conference was translation and equality. There was a committee recommendation that the compilation of all Conference committee background be made available annually on or before February 15 in English, French, and Spanish. Traditionally, the Conference timeline has seen the release of English background on February 15th, with the goal of having translations available during the first week of March. Over the last several years, in part because of the volume of material, we have seen translations available later and later. This year, we had to use translated summaries from Area 06 in order to have informed membership at the Spanish PreConference, with official background translations unavailable until 3/16. In discussing this item, we ended up removing the deadline dates and going with a simplified statement that background would be available simultaneously in all three languages. A February 15th deadline was too great a stipulation given the workload, so we will trust in the best efforts of staff members. And hopefully reevaluate some of our other traditional timelines.

With the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process, we moved forward the dates for submitted agenda items, from 12/15 to 9/15. However, the final approval of the Conference Agenda is still made at the January Board Weekend. Hopefully by making a change here, we could have additional time for the development and translation of background. Additionally, one of the stated goals of EDW was the presentation of clear and concise background. Accomplishing that goal would seem to benefit the expediency of translation.

This is a change which will affect how we plan our spring activities. It's possible that we won't have background for our Mock Conferences. It's possible that there will be limited time and access to background for our PreConferences. Personally, I see it as an opportunity, and not just for spiritual parity in making sure that there are no second-class service workers. I think this gives us an opportunity to have greater discussion about our principles and our Agenda Items, with less focus on debating background. This year, we discussed changes from the 71st, ways to address changes in the future, things we wanted to see and wanted to avoid in current projects. We can have those discussions fully without background. We can have those discussions fully with background. But the conversations need to focus upon spiritual values, and not on the merits of supporting documentation.

After Sunday's workshops, I was standing outside of the hotel waiting for the Opening Dinner. To my surprise, I turned around and saw Felix, the DCM from 05, and Lupe, the former Alternate from D30. They were in Brooklyn with 5 other Area 51 spanish-speaking members, who had come to New Jersey for a planning session on a Convention, and who decided to stop and visit the Conference. They were invited to attend the opening dinner, and I spent the next hour scurrying about trying to make introductions to Amalia and Paz and Karina, ACM and Trustee and La Vina Staff. I tried to rally Karla, Melvin, Elloy and Pablo, to make sure that our members received an introduction and welcome from a community of common language. One day, one of these Spanish-speaking members will return to the Conference as an Area Delegate, and when that happens we need to make sure that they have equal access to material and participation.

The last thing I want to talk about is the future, to talk a bit about what is ours and what is theirs. There was a committee recommendation to create a 2nd volume of Experience, Strength, and Hope to house stories removed from the 4th Edition. Given current circulation and the unknown but presumably insufficient content for a 2nd volume based upon the stories culled from the 4th, this item didn't pass. Minority opinion held that this would create a home for future stories from future editions. But if we're producing a new edition every 20-25 years, this isn't a decision that needs to be made now.

In reviewing an agenda item that all proposed changes to the 12 & 12 be handled in footnotes, the Committee stated that it “did not want to mandate a specific format for possible changes at a future Conference. Future proposals should be considered by the group conscience of each Conference.”

In discussing requests to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the committee took no action, noting “that we operate on a system of trust and checks and balances” and agreeing “that AA’s Twelve Concepts adequately provide guidance to our trusted servants to make decisions that reflect the informed group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole.”

Of course the actions we make have an impact upon the future, but we need to be careful about making decisions for the future. The action of producing a 5th Edition of the Big Book, and a plain and simple translation will have an impact on the future. But today’s action is to approve the production and tomorrow’s action is to approve the product. In his essay on leadership, Bill wrote about the attribute of vision – sound estimates for the near and long-term future. We practice this attribute of vision while honoring the principle of autonomy. There are things which are ours, and things which belong to the future. We should not bind the hands of the future by trying to cement our current understanding as a lasting group conscience. There was a humility shown by the Conference in making these considerations which was one of my main takeaways. Last year, I was proud of the work the Conference did, grateful for the boldness with which we acted. This year, I was moved by the prudence shown in resisting the temptation to overreach the Conference’s purpose.

The Conference should never perform any act of government, and one of the things that means to me is that we resist the impulse to tie the hands of a future Conference. As our Book says, we realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to us.

The Conference ended with several hours of discussion about a floor action that “the 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed, that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.” This was brought forward with the idea that we needed a feel-good moment for the Fellowship, for people who are concerned about changes within our literature. This item didn’t pass, not because there wasn’t considerable or even unanimous support for the spirit of it.

What kind of feel-good moment would it be, to pass this knowing that the advisory action approving the development of the 5th Edition would expand 2 Appendices, revise the Preface, and include a new Foreword? The Preface begins by saying “This is the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*”. How could we pass this knowing that we won’t be upholding it? The 1995 Advisory Action was referenced last year in the action authorizing the production of a 5th edition. Do we really need to reaffirm our beliefs and our values, or can we simply continue to act on them? Several years ago, the Appendix “How to Get in touch with AA,” was updated to reference aa.org. And it did not create a crisis of confidence in our commitment to proven AA principles.

A lot of the concern since the 71st Conference has centered around the idea that recent changes compromise proven AA tools and principles. I would like you to consider the spiritual values of trust and faith. Last year, I shared my frequent prayer, asking God to show me who He would have me be. The recurring answer was “Be not afraid.” I am not afraid of our unknown future making its own decisions. I am not troubled by the fact that our future offers no guarantees, that AA offers no affirmations. I saw at the Conference that there will be no shortage of dedicated and qualified individuals willing to serve. And I learned from the example of others, that if I want the *Alcoholics Anonymous* that I have come to know, the AA that has saved my life, to continue with the strength and vibrancy that I have known, it will be accomplished through sponsorship. One alcoholic helping another, passing the torch, raising the newcomer to honor and respect our history. This is how we prepare our leaders, and the leaders to come. We don’t protect *Alcoholics Anonymous* through litigation or affirmation, we do it by carrying the message in its entirety. By practicing and teaching all Three Legacies of our Society.

Abandon yourself to God as you understand Him. Think about the faith and confidence in those words, in our ability to know and to hear God. There is no “Abandon yourself to God and here’s who He is.” Think about how that faith and confidence extends to a group conscience, where each Assembly is its own entity, where no Conference action is binding upon any future Conference. It is an idea as scary as powerlessness, and as full of promise as surrender. We do not need to safeguard our program through Advisory Action, we need to do it by carrying the entirety of our AA message.

How does a person say goodbye to Conference? After the conclusion of business, each departing Delegate has a moment to share their gratitude and lasting thoughts. Jennifer B., who was with us at the Fall Assembly and chaired my Conference Committee, caught Covid at the Conference. I didn’t have to say goodbye to Conference, because Conference said goodbye to me, with one last spiritual experience. I was asked to share Jennifer’s departing comments, to use my time to be a voice for someone else. This broken, selfish, and small-minded alcoholic with an opportunity to speak on someone else’s behalf. And isn’t that what it’s all about, after all.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, for allowing me to carry your voices, represent our Area, and serve AA as a whole. I will be forever grateful.

Registrar’s Report:

Registrar Report for 2022 Spring Assembly

I am an alcoholic and my name is Greg K. For all of you A.A. Service Manual lovers, did you know the latest printing has an updated description of the Registrar role? The new text begins by recognizing that the duties of the Registrar have evolved with the implementation of Fellowship Connection and reminds us that Registrars often are a crucial first point of contact for A.A. groups and trusted servants’ data. I hope you all will read or have read more about the duties and qualifications of the Area Registrar on pages 27-28 in the Service Manual.

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. Concept I states: “Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.” I think a shortened version of Concept I is for each group to have an active G.S.R. Our literature states that the G.S.R. may be the most important position in A.A., not to be confused with the most important person. Groups typically register at a local level such as intergroup or district website so the alcoholic or newcomer is able to find our meetings. We register with G.S.O. and not so local entities for communication. Communication is vital within our fellowship and we are only as good as the information we gather. I have really noticed that the districts that have a District Registrar or another person/position that is primarily responsible for group and trusted servant updates are much more active and accurate. Since November 4th of last year through this past June 5th, I have made 794 updates in our area database and a similar amount in the Fellowship Connection (G.S.O.) database. Any updates entered since June 5th have been made but will not show up in the printed packets made available to each district at this assembly. We currently have 1,131 groups with 19,737 members. There are 51 Correctional Facility groups with 1,211 members. Our area database has not been updated at this time but we currently have 12 virtual groups with 135 members in the FC database. Area 48 has a virtual district (about 10 groups) that has been going on for about a year. Very recently, a past Delegate from Area 45 made a motion at their Spring Assembly to approve a virtual district on a two year test basis. This will be voted at their Summer Assembly. I have a copy

of the motion if anyone is interested. A past Delegate from Area 05 said it sounds like our fellowship is on the front lines of the wild, Wild West with virtual, hybrid, etc.

It is suggested that a group have a good start before registering, meaning wait at least a month or two. G.S.O is interested in listing groups and not meetings. I hope everyone here understands the difference between a group and meeting. Being listed with G.S.O is not an official "sanctioning" of a group and it does NOT ensure the group will appear on local meeting schedules. A G.S.R. or any trusted servant MUST have a mailing address to be listed.

I have been participating in quarterly Zoom calls with staff members at G.S.O. and other area Registrars. These meetings are mainly about how Fellowship Connection can be improved. G.S.O is trying to improve communication. The Delegate (Rainer) and I (Registrar) now receive a notification when someone registers a group directly with G.S.O. This is definitely good for the area but also the more local structure as it may allow a D.C.M to become more aware and reach out to a new group. D.C.M.'s have "read only" access to FC database. It allows them to see any new groups (or updates) and also to see if group information is incomplete. If so, they can visit the group and welcome them plus get information completed. Please encourage anyone you know to go through the layers of our service structure and register new groups through our area and then that will be forwarded to the FC database. This ensures good communication and accurate information. D.C.M.'s can now see the status of kits (such as G.S.R.) in the FC database. There are some Area Registrars currently working on a survey. The purpose is to help make better decisions in regards to Fellowship Connection.

I have also been participating in monthly calls with other Area Registrars to discover and share ideas about how we may be more effective in our service with things other than Fellowship Connection. My original thoughts were about updating our area database or possibly switching to a more robust database such as AirTable. After some discussion, I'm thinking that the FC database might be more than sufficient to meet all our area needs and keep things much simpler. I'm pretty sure our next Registrar will be weighing in on this.

I encourage any of you to reach out to me if you have any questions at all or if I can be of service to you or your groups. I want to give a special thanks to all who helped at the registration table and thank you all for allowing me to serve!

With Love & Gratitude in Service,

Greg K.,

Area 51 Registrar

Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report:

Budget and Finance Subcommittee Report 6-18-22

My name is Alison M. and I have the honor of serving as your Budget and Finance subcommittee chair.

I would like to begin by thanking our Area 51 Chair, Denise, our treasurer, Stevie D for their support, and all of the members of the subcommittee for their hard work.

The first priority for the subcommittee was to tackle all of the ideas for spending of the surplus dollars from 2019. We received 28 items to consider. The group worked as your trusted servants through the process of choosing the most appropriate way to use the surplus dollars. We will present that item to you today. It was also very important that we communicated to everyone that submitted an idea so that they knew that their idea was vital to Area 51. An email was sent to all participants that submitted an idea so that they were informed and would not be surprised today when their idea was not chosen.

Our subcommittee is currently working on the equipment inventory spreadsheet and the proposed budget for 2023. Any equipment purchased by Area 51 will be noted on this spreadsheet not only to keep up with the equipment but to know when it's time to replace these items. The proposed budget will be presented at the Summer Committee meeting to be voted on at the Fall Assembly.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for allowing me to serve Area 51 in this capacity.

Website Subcommittee's Report:

The website subcommittee is trucking along in first part of 2022. I would like to thank the Webmaster Kavaruss, all of the members of the subcommittee, as well as those tireless volunteers. We meet on Zoom the 2nd Wednesday 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 website 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.

We are currently looking for a new Webmaster to replace Kavaruss when his term ends at the end of the year. We put out a 'Call for Webmaster' which explains all the duties of the awesome service position. We are currently researching the possibility of having a paid position for our webmaster.

In the initial advisory action in Fall 2005 states that "Area 51 will adopt the website policies as recommended by the Ad Hoc Website Committee. Any modification to these website policies will require Area 51 Assembly approval." This was created when the website was a new area of engagement for Area 51, and there appeared to be a need to keep close tabs on how the website was generated and modified, and how the subcommittee functioned.

At the 2021 Fall Assembly, we had three agenda items. From that, it indicated strongly that there no longer needed to be such strict oversight, creating a large number of advisory actions that unnecessarily clutter up the assembly agenda. Provided each change is first vetted by and approved by the Area Committee, this oversight can still be accomplished without involvement of the whole Assembly.

To resolve this, we have created an agenda item. It is that the standing 'website subcommittee' be able to revise their internal structure, policies and procedures to match how the subcommittee feels it can best function. Any policy changes what affect what information is visible or available in various sections of the website will be first vetted and approved by the current Area Committee. Any changes will be reported to the membership and documented in the Website Subcommittee policies and procedures documents.

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 researched each topic and will plan on recommending which ones we will take on at some point in the future.

In summary, the website subcommittee has been very busy this 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.

Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee Report:

Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee Report for Spring Assembly 18 JUN 22

Good afternoon.....My name is Scott H. and I am an alcoholic.....I am the DCM for District 50 and have the privilege to serve as the chairperson for the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee. The past several months have been rather busy for Growth and Maintenance and I hope to highlight for you in the next several minutes or so generally what service work we have been involved in.

We started this year off welcoming our new DCM's and ALT DCM's to the subcommittee and all have been exceptionally eager to take on roles to support our work. The vast bulk of this effort has concerned preparing for what we all will be participating in this evening; the Area inventory. Our aim has been, and will be, to facilitate this process from the initial question drafting carried out last year, to tonight's breakout sessions and all the way through the final feedback being collected and collated; which btw the website submissions will continue to be received up to a month after this assembly. We will be working in the months to come to compile the data in a usable format from which metrics may be used to potentially serve as the catalyst for possible Area consideration and/or action.

We have also spent a large amount of our effort on research into Hybrid technologies; i.e. the technology that could potentially enable Area 51 to carry out in person and Zoom enabled assemblies and committee meetings. Our goal in this research is to gain an understanding of what this would look like in terms of logistics, resources and implementation. We have reached out to other Areas who have implemented this technology already and also to industry corporations whose feedback we receive will be handed over to any future subcommittee to carry out this role. Needless to say, this functionality will require service workers with a unique skill set related to this technology and that will primarily be devoted to this task; coordination with other subcommittees such as site investigation, website, budget and finance etc will also be key. Our goal as the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee is to empower these service worker alcoholics from the get go with as much information and support as possible to be a success if this is what we as a fellowship wish to have for the Area.

While the bulk of our effort has been focused on the above two initiatives, we continue to carry out other initiatives and roles already established. We have several subcommittee members who are training in updating the P3 manual and will be looking to add updates from the fall assembly concerning the website as an initial learning practicum. We also continue to be involved in discussions concerning the Area 51 Information Policy and also discussions concerning a potential Area 51 Technology committee. These efforts are ongoing and are discussed and updated as needed in our monthly meetings.

As I come to the conclusion of my report, I just want to reiterate how exciting it is to chair this subcommittee at such a significant time in Area 51's spiritual growth. It's been 10 years since our last inventory and after tonight we will be working to gain a vision on where our fellowship wants to grow in the next 10 years. Taking the steps we need to take to keep the doors open for the next sick and suffering to come is of paramount importance, our primary purpose as an Area, and we on the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee are honored to be on this journey with you. I extend my gratitude and prayers for each and everyone of you as we carry out this work and I eagerly anticipate the fruit it produces...thank y'all and God Bless!!!

Scott H.
Growth and Maintenance Subcommittee Chairperson 2022

Area 51 Inventory Session 1 Report:

Sharing Session 1
Reporter: Wanda Cranwell, DCM D31
Moderator: Julie R., Alt. Delegate

1. Continue with more virtual ways to ask for information, access to delegate

Keep focusing on the technology approach.

Put more information on website about virtual meetings.

Service sponsorship needs to be encouraged more. Possibly more workshops at assemblies and conventions. Should the website have an outside audit to assess user friendliness?

2. Supply the delegate's report in writing sooner than five weeks.

DCM/GSR packets for new representatives with information concerning their responsibilities at assembly. A lot of "newbies" received a lot of information but no directions.

Teleprompter near the dais in order to be able to take more notes.

Promote service sponsorship in pre-assembly information.

Reminders to DCM's to visit groups in their district personally.

Add wording to the P3 manual to spell out what is expected of GSR's and DCM's.

3. One person felt like the workshops were more like subcommittee meetings.

Strategies for workshops suggested by area but held outside of assembly weekends.

Assist DCM's with ideas for getting GSR's involved.

Put assembly workshops on video and put on website.

People want different workshops; not the coordinator workshops (several members found limited value in the coordinator workshops).

4. Workshops on service sponsorship.
Include a fun event for people to "cap off" the assembly weekend.
Offer pamphlets in video form.
Talk more about the "Three Legacies".
The "we" in this question needs to be the DCM's and GSR's more so than the area in attracting participation in the area service structure.
5. DCM meetings via Zoom in order to communicate with each other.
Coordinators to make periodic contact via email with DCM's (like Brooks does for the *Grapevine*).
Resources for data management? Create new position just for date management; i.e., group change information.
Templates on the website for DCM's to use to distribute at district meetings. For example, current events info, reminders of upcoming events, instructional tidbits.
Coordinators to visit district meetings in order to create relationships and have face-to-face conversations with DCM's and GSR's.
Offer the assembly workshops in hybrid form.
6. Yes.
7. More desire for hybrid formats. Maybe start with just hybrid workshops and just projecting the assembly without it being interactive. Hybrid takes practice.
Virtual assemblies may diminish 7th tradition contributions.
Find a way to include and inform YPAA.
8. More clarification is needed on the process of how a surplus is calculated and distributed.
Promote the P3 manual more.
"How the Surplus is Calculated" as a workshop.
More than one person wanted to know what happens to the other suggested items besides the one voted on at assembly.
Communicate the criteria for surplus suggestions.
Use the 3rd Legacy process for multiple surplus suggestions.
Keep the money in perpetuity.
9. Request for minutes to be available in less time.
Publish the coordinator reports before minutes are ready.
Use surplus to put on more workshops and Unity Day type events.
Increase coordinator budgets.

Area 51 Inventory Session 2:

Sharing Session 2

Reporter: Jodi D., Alternate DCM D31

Moderator: Clayborne T., Alternate Chair

Q. 1: Better communication @ General Service

- Bring pre-conference to the Assembly b/c this contains the "big topics" which can be most engaging. Modify the schedule to allow this.
- Communicate whether or not people need to hear it; there's limited time – if your info is up & out rather than to all levels. Share service info to every level of membership.
- The Area may not be as good as communication as individual people can be – do this at a grassroots, member-to-member sharing; it's all of our responsibility.
- Create some kind of training or orientation for the GSR. Better inform the GSR overall. One group stated their district offers a monthly boot camp for this goal.
- Timing for Agenda items being released and it can be confusing – is there a cut-off date (2/15?) to allow time for group participation.
- Using the GSR role & create opportunities to be introduced to service eg. as alternate or have it in a module.

Q. 2: How effective is the Area Assembly in communicating w/in GS Structure sep. with new people

- Could be more efficient, Rainer could have gone on earlier
- Why not use Friday evening &
- Workshops like: How to be an effective GSR & service sponsorship & those seem to be removed so we may want to reintroduce. People want training & it is lacking.
- We should cater to new people.
- We do a good job; understands that w/an inventory some workshops had to go.
- Starts w/DCM at district meeting – that can create a foundation & create interest
- What tools are the Area providing at district level – support the DCMs effort to do that.
- GSR was handed service manual & told she will figure it out.
- Assembly does a good job & district does well; where are your leaders(?) Use the Alt GSR at Assemblies. Take it back to group level & sponsorship. 1:1 teaching.
- Focus on district: Use DCM to keep GSR's well training & orientation.
- How-To table; how to service manual study group; how to engage; how do I do a report – ideas for groups. Not everyone has good examples.

Q. 3: Is Assembly set up well?

- What's the goal? Why are we doing workshop topics at the assembly? Business meeting focus should be clear.
- Assembly is very effective – Area does what is expected.
- No – we are not creating dialogue – it's been dissemination of info vs. problem solving.
- Area website is an underutilized tool – it could capture group level concerns & create ways to share.
- Workshops can be helpful as an exchange of ideas. More collaboration could be an improvement.

Q. 4: How can we improve/attracting new people? Service Sponsorship?

- Yes; lucky enough to be identified by a person & encouraged to participate. Direct connection. Service Manual.
- Sponsorship into Service – maybe a pamphlet about what service sponsors are or do?
- 240 groups/1100 groups – how do we engage uninvolved groups?
- Take it back to direct AA > AA interactions. 3 legacies – it's our job to teach them.
- Disconnect - central info. What's the standard? How can we generate interest; how it impacts your group? Does website post GSR role info – interactive & up to date.
- YPAA & general assembly – bridge the gap to tap into young folks.
- YP service – "young people in service"
- Take initiative in your role; find motivating people; what can I do?

Q. 5: Area 51 Service Coordinator improve with district/group counterparts

- Be added to email list.
- GSR portal on website: What are Robert's Rules; [how to] find a service sponsor; email sign-up.
- Getting info to us in a timely fashion.
- Encourage district level & committee meetings here at assembly.
- Delegate Rainer offers service hours & virtual meeting to > accessibility
- Service coordinators = area officers; general service; Archivist/Grapevine; 2001- 2003: we has service committees; model to service coordinators & interact w/Districts; Two types: Direct & General Service; Area Coordinators/ Intergroup Rep; GSR/Alt DCM/DCM.
- Disconnect local district committee & Area level committee – particularly w/treatment.
- Immediate response from CPC-PI ; monthly zoom calls – support.
- Resumes/Chair nominates/ Assembly votes incoming Chair elected at Fall Assembly & that night they review resumes & next day they propose Area Chairs. Appointed = no election needed. Consultation w/ outgoing Chair.

Q. 6: Steps/Tradition/Concepts

- Yes, examples,
- Minority opinion (upside down triangle)
- Lay out rules beforehand.
- Always give Robert's Rules
- Clear
- Respectful
- Trusted Servant
- Doing a 4th & 10th Step now with Inventory
- Distribution of surplus = aligned w/the tradition; re: group autonomy.

Q. 7: Virtually use?

- Virtual GSR training; workshops on demand
- Keep info present & available
- Set schedule "3rd Thurs monthly" always available at Area level.
- Help people w/ saving \$
- Area Coordinator can share info regionally & share ideas; 1x monthly presentation
- Overly cautions @ zoom; make it very available & share it early – make it accessibl.
- Monthly or quarterly GSR or Area Committees

- Delegate's report posted online.
- Monitor/Literature/Access; New Mexico – state pen. allowed zoom meetings
- Request workshops; it would be a disservice to discontinue it; powerful communication tool.
- Virtual workshops & recording them.
- Monthly or quarterly meetings online

Q. 8: 7th Tradition: fulfill primary purpose (Area 51 Surplus)

- GSR fund – scholarship fund to help provide the training
- Jails – Corrections need funds.
- GSR funds for sponsorship (reoccurring cost)
- Pick areas needing focus & funding percentages ahead; proactive effort to fund pre-identified areas of focus.
- Must be one-time costs/special projects; could not support 1 particular area
- Restriction of how funds can be used is important.
- Why can't funds be refunded to districts or groups instead of opposite direction?
- Process seems lengthy & complicated & disorganized so \$ goes to GSO.
- Split surplus – turning it over to GSO undermines the group autonomy to determine allocations; intergroup credited it back to groups;
- Process: money has to be spent by Assembly & Fall Assembly is 1st opportunity at that time. Can mean the Spring Assembly

Q. 9: Q's/Comments/Concerns

- Q – us the surplus process – P3 Manual
- Q – why can't different areas request funds of areas for surplus funds
- C – thank you for service
- C – Organize around service; part of delivering the message to Corrections, w/in AA: not within NC/ time zone.
- C – Zoom utilization
- C – take address to register; virtual meetings can be topical vs. regional; Area video archives; training on youtube.

Themes:

Engaging people/members in service

- It's everyone's' job
- Train people in their respective roles
- Don't expect the Assembly to provide all the service structure training
- DCMs can use district meetings to orient GSRs to Assembly processes/engage Alt GSRs early
- Area can provide specific GSR training forums
- Area can train & help DCMs coordinate
- Member to member talk & encouragement is key
- Provide info in a timely fashion

Assembly

- Revisit the focus & goal: is this a place for business? Workshops? Dialogue? Dissemination of material & info?
- Post inventory: bring back the workshops, ie: service sponsorship & effective GSRIing
- Have a How-To Table: how to run a service manual study & how to engage newcomers in service
- Use Area website to provide training; capture group feedback

Service Sponsorship

- Workshop at Assemblies
- Maybe a brochure about it
- Maybe shift gears to engaging disengaged groups ; 240/1100 groups
- All sponsorship 3 Legacies

Area 51

- GSR portal on website
- Roberts Rules
- Email sign-up
- Area focus groups on various topics
- Area Coordinators: increase access, decrease intergroup reps group level efforts.

Area 51 Inventory Session 3:

Sharing Session 3

Reporter: Annette K., GSR, Big Town Group

Moderator: Lisa P., Secretary

Q. 1:

- There are 2 issues: 1. There are groups vs. meetings – meetings do not have GSRs or go to District/Area meetings and 2. Getting groups to go to district meetings is not happening which is causing communication issues.

- Districts should be reaching out to groups/visit.
- Sponsorship is important – teach sponsees about AA history & traditions.
- Workshops on what's happening in the Area. Area put together 15-30 minute to send to groups and districts.
- Workshops specific to helping new GSRs; they don't know what to take back to group so give guidance to GSR on how to take info back to groups to make it important to the group;
- Groups have dwindled due to Covid and getting people into service is difficult; DCM, LCM & GSRs – show what's in it for them; DCMs carry the message - go to group business meetings and help get people involved.
- Communication & Love & Teaching

Q. 2:

- First time involved was given a lot of information and read it and shared with others.
- Service sponsorship - great tool; encourages service; helps with questions; does the Area have a pool of service sponsors? Ask in Assembly who is willing to be a service sponsor to raise their hand
- Look at new GSO website
- Terminology can be confusing to new GSR/DCM
- Reach out your hand and welcome people; make sure they are comfortable.
- Have 1st time GSR workshop - what service is and what do I need to know about service.

Q. 3:

- Area send out call for suggestions from districts and groups what they would like discussed in workshops.
- One person felt workshops were boring.
- Would like more workshops on what information to take to the groups/districts.
- Get ideas for workshops to reflect what is relevant to what is happening in groups/districts.
- Technology has not helped communication in all regions especially rural areas.
- Old-timers need to let younger members make mistakes - embrace the spirit of rotation.

Q. 4:

Part 1 of question:

- Videos for new GSRs.
- Workshop on service sponsorship.
- Don't just announce service positions – speak one-on-one to members.
- Act excited; attraction not promotion.
- Make it more fun.

Part 2 of question:

- Absolutely: Information on service sponsorship in Service Manual on pages 9 & 10; also in sponsorship pamphlet.
- Pair new GSRs with someone familiar with Area Assembly to buddy up with, go to lunch together, and hang out between sessions.
- Area to reach out to inactive districts.
- DCMs to reach out to inactive groups.

Q. 5:

- Treatment Coordinator took attendance and got people excited about Bridging the Gap.
- Encourage people to have fun at workshops.
- Inform people what is happening in Area outside NC.
- Put your hand out; people learn by watching, doing and repetition.
- One member was concerned that as a rural area they are being neglected due to lack of contact.
- Monthly newsletter sent out by email seen as effective.

Q. 6:

- Was impressed how business was handled at Assembly today.
- One concern was may have been too quick to call the question; how is this following traditions if we are not listening to full debate.
- Minority opinion respected.
- Stated at beginning of Assembly no clapping or booing during business discussion and why.
- Felt that Traditions, Steps and Concepts were used by those that gave reports.

Q. 7:

- Putting workshops on virtually would be a vital tool for those who use virtual.
- Issues on doing an Area Assembly hybrid included limitations on sharing and voting.
- Don't want to lose what has been gained.
- Have workshops on technology and how to use.
- Loved the YouTube video on Concept presented by Diana L.

Q. 8:

- Keep money in Area; don't send to GSO; multiple individuals echoed this idea.
- Money should be going to where it's needed.
- Group was informed that Assembly passed Advisory Action to send money to GSO only in instance of default.

- Several suggested sending money to struggling districts;
- Add to GSR Unity Fund – 3 or 4 GSRs were denied scholarship for current Assembly because monies had already been exhausted.

- Q. 9:
- Website: Add capability for service positions and Coordinators to connect at state, district and group level.
 - Tech sponsor: someone who will help those who struggle with technology and need assistance connecting with zoom; hold a zoom workshop.
 - Formal registration: have greeters added to help direct and educate new people on where and when to go to important places once they arrive at Assembly.

Area 51 Inventory Session 4:

Sharing Session 4
Reporter: Donnie J., GSR, G2 Group
Moderator: Stevie D., Treasurer

- Q. 1:
- Make sure intergroups get information.
 - Have workshops for sponsorship.
 - Get people excited about service; shared story “about how pamphlet name change” was impactful.
 - Confusion about GSR responsibility; believe responsibility is to intergroup but this could be due to sponsorship issues. It could also be because intergroup has all the literature, the hotline and ready access. Communication w/GSR, DCM, and Area.
 - Is it Area 51’s responsibility to detail importance of sponsorship? What are best practices in other Areas? Need different communication/media especially for younger people.
 - Educating the new GSR; provide packets and zoom intro meeting; it is both the Area & Districts responsibility.
 - Monthly contact by Area 51 to DCMs and DCMs to GSRs; exciting email.
 - Zoom: new GSR orientation 4 times a year in one District; include service sponsor.
 - Explain service work and importance.
- Q. 2:
- Assemblies are too formal; cannot understand information.
 - Presenters need to be animated.
 - Send Robert’s Rules cheat sheets to GSRs before Assemblies; one liners for (definitions and keywords) cheat sheets.
 - New GSR/DCM change forms completed at check-in; more information at check-in.
 - GSR intro & new GSR training at Assembly. It would be helpful to have New GSR Page on website; new-comers corner.
 - Cliff notes version of training.
 - Job description for GSRs; extract the job description from Service Manual; too many acronyms.
 - Where would newcomer find out about P3 manual?
- Q. 3:
- Information: this is when the workshops would normally be.
 - No workshops during Inventory and Election Assemblies.
 - When is a good time to do workshops due to low attendance?
 - Why was this Assembly on Father’s Day weekend?
 - Monthly zoom training meetings are best.
 - Who decides the when and what for workshops?
 - Can the Area facilitate a zoom connection for Districts and groups to conduct trainings?
 - Add “how to be GSR” during workshops.
 - How can GSR give effective report?
- Q. 4:
- One trusted servant introduced himself and asked for service sponsor.
 - One member shared they were intimidated to be in position of service; invite newcomer to open up for service.
 - Who pays for travel? Make sure that GSRs know there are scholarships available.
 - Learn who fits the service position before nominating them; don’t nominate people who don’t want to do it.
 - Home group members invited her to service and were enthusiastic
 - Service sponsor did not invite him; home group’s responsibility.
 - Good sponsor who appreciated service.
 - More openness about Conferences/Assemblies; are they optional for GSR’s? Some think it seems that way.
- Q. 5:
- Recently began to receive Grapevine monthly emails to pass along.
 - Are intergroups un-intentionally stopping the communication between groups and districts?
 - Each location handles intergroups differently.
 - Got started with hotline; make formal connection between Area and intergroup.

- Coordinators are not coordinating.
- History of AA in one District displayed; have it at Intergroup.
- Intergroup representative at District meeting; DCM at Intergroup meeting.
- Aware web searches are difficult; looking for solution.
- Cannot maneuver website to register new group and GSR.

Q. 6:

- Several people used these and referenced these during talks.
- Put reference bullets on agenda.
- Seen all come to life during Assemblies.
- Felt Area was pushing information down to members; also saw where minority opinion changed vote.
- Surprised spirituality was openly referenced.

Q. 7:

- Workshops
- Feels communication is better now than ever before.
- Concept study before District meeting.
- 3 virtual groups in District; stated virtual meetings were needed at Area level; addresses physical issues.
- Loved the Grapevine Podcast; can we live stream Conferences and Assemblies?

Q. 8:

- Vote on at Assembly; have GSRs bring options to Assembly.
- More scholarships for Assembly to groups; have application process
- Keep money in Area; billboards or anything to carry the message.
- Was the vote today the only option? There were 28 ideas not selected.
- Give information about how surplus action came about.
- Use on zoom and technology.
- Have place on website to submit ideas, like google form.
- Do we take inflation into account when deciding how much surplus is available?
- Surplus came from 1 and half year ago; rarely do all scholarships get used.

Q. 9:

- Nothing suggested.

Area 51 Inventory Session 5:

Sharing Session 5

Reporter: Margaret, GSR, Primary Purpose Group

Moderator: Greg K., Registrar

Q. 1:

- Hybrid Assemblies – many more would participate but logistically impossible. Principles require us to open up geographically, physically, and economically.
- Remind servants to know their responsibility; explain.
- Set aside extra funds to fund groups or persons w/o funds.
- Audio Visual Aids – to help people become interested in service. Explain the importance; why it's important; make it relevant.
- Have a meeting on service or a skit.
- Quarterly meeting for District to talk about General Service; workshop.
- Training for GSRs – explain what the position entails.
- Website - more informational, engaging, interactive.
- Responsibility of everyone.

Q. 2:

- Mentoring of GSRs put on by Area; virtual written materials; how to vote based on informed group conscience.
- Service promotion agenda – roll out on a regular basis; Delegate to DCMs at the District level; instructional materials.
- Individual AA's need to share what was given to them; don't leave it up to the Area, District or group entirely.
- Past servants need to pass-it-on!
- Sponsor young people into service; go to young people's groups like ICYPAA and talk about service.
- Communication, workshops, more frequent Inventories.

Q. 3:

- Record the workshops so others can view them at a different time.
- Meeting of DCMs to share topic as a feedback session.
- Who decides the workshops? Could GSRs have input into the workshop topics?

- At Assembly have a session for all newcomers to the Assembly.
- Service Sponsors: receive, retain, release.
- Give better reports. Communicate at all levels.

Q. 4:

- Service Sponsorship makes a big difference; help the next person make the transition; get a service sponsor.
- Promote the service manual.
- Have service meetings via zoom with a group of friends.
- Sponsors – be excited about service.
- Guide the alternate to your position.
- Make it fun and make sure the information is online or on an app. Young people are always on cell phones.
- Website – some things don't need password protection; make passwords accessible at meetings, district websites, etc.

Q. 5:

- Does the Area have a "Service" Coordinator?
- CPC/PI is a service coordinator; part of responsibility is to reach out to districts and groups and offer to visit and explain.
- Hold Workshops.

Q. 6:

- Delegate always incorporates the Traditions and principles info when discussing an issue on the agenda.
- Everything we do needs to be evaluated; any action proposed or undertaken in light of the Traditions and Concepts.
- Differing interpretations of Traditions; Traditions not always followed; others believe we did very well as an Area.
- God-consciousness is as important as our Ultimate Authority.

Q. 7:

- Helping virtually – click to ask questions about sponsorship.
- Be able to get sponsor in an online group.
- Zoom bombers and hackers – how to deal with this – passwords and firewalls – mute everyone, un-mute individually.
- Use virtual platforms for workshops and educate about service.
- Microsoft teams – use technology correctly.
- Impressive how AA adapted to Zoom during Covid.
- Zoom or online platforms can add to our ability to carry the message.
- Making people lazy – no longer going to any length. Need a physical presence for newcomers to get connected.
- *Can still* have connections.

Q. 8:

- Send surplus back to the groups and district if logistically possible.
- Districts send to GSO; Area shouldn't send their cut to GSO.

Q. 9:

- Six page new group form that used to be one page; very wasteful.
- Preamble change address at Area level.
- What can we do on Area level on safety issues? 13th Stepping and violent behavior.
- More options for Friday night activities at Assembly.

Area 51 Inventory Session 6:

Area 51 Inventory
Spanish Session Translated

Section in Spanish, inventory of area – questions about the inventory.

Questions and answers Saturday, July 18, 2022. Assistance, interpreter Ricardo Lara.

17 companions attended (Juan, Jose, Felix, Jose-Luis, Ermenejildo, Chenco, Juan, Sergio, Alberto, Francisco, Troy).

QUESTION #1:

- Better equipment.
- Delegates give their report to the DCM sooner and the DCM to the GSR's sooner.
- Invite the different committees to the district.
- Fewer words to use.
- Use social networks to include e-mail.
- Keep the message simple – Service is sobriety.
- With action and not with words.
- Get information to the districts with enough time.

QUESTION #2:

- The information is fine and it is effective.
- It's effective, because there's always a table of the different committees.

- It is effective, because there's always information in Spanish English of what it is going to be about.
- It has always been effective, because the information reaches the district and the groups.
- The motivation and joy of the new trusted servants.
- It's effective, because of the overtaking by committee members and the points.
- It's effective, because there's much overtaking.
- Having a picture of the structure of AA.
- It is effective with more images, labels and more visual.
- Study the service manual.

QUESTION #3:

- Yes, it's the best way.
- It really is the best information, it's a good solution, it's just good.
- How to be an effective DCM, by putting on a "question and answer" workshop.
- Find the best way to lay out points and problems?
- AA community participation in English with Hispanics to share their experience.
- Share your strength and hope through experience.
- It is good to raise the problems of the groups and districts?
- The conclusion of the workshops is good.
- Yes, it's the best way.
- He is working in the best way, I don't know.

QUESTION #4:

- With the example of good motivation.
- Motivating groups.
- Attraction by example.
- Motivate is a great way.
- Sponsorship marks the difference when life is not on the line.
- Motivate the Primary and the Alternate UUAM.
- Transmitting our experience to the newcomer.
- Make it more interesting and fun to motivate the newcomer.
- With our example.
- Financial sponsorship.

QUESTION #5:

- Have all the information clear and with time.
- Get to all the information.
- Send all the information from the event.
- Improve our work to reach all of the districts.
- Inform more and improve more.
- The DCM's would have to bring the information, by tradition.
- More participation with the information.
- Communication.
- The Communicating with DCM.

QUESTION #6:

- Our decisions and actions are a guide through the power of the principles.
- Yes, when they ring the bell, because your time is up. 1 or 2 minutes per member.

QUESTION #7:

- Face to face in the Group.
- We lose the essence of being face to face that is a screen.

QUESTION #8:

- Motivate the groups.
- Be more conscience about group responsibilities.
- The purpose of carrying the message is to give more pamphlets and literature.
- The committees in order to work harder, carry the message and objective.

QUESTION #9:

- The radios, translation equip.

Alternate Delegate's Report:

Good Morning, my name is Julie and I am an alcoholic. I serve as your Area 51 Alternate Delegate.

This morning I get to highlight some GSO financials, AA events coming up and my take aways about Preconferences.

The Special Virtual Forum for North and South America that I have been reporting being in the works for the past year and a half has been scheduled for Saturday, July 16th. It will start at 11:00 am and run till 7:00 pm. Members from the service structures of Argentina, Canada, Chile and the United States will share their experience, strength and hope in extending the hand of AA to Remote Communities. How neat is it that we can have an event that encompasses multiple countries that may speak different languages but all speak the language of the heart. You can register for the event at aa.org.

Now if you are ready to travel, it is time to start planning to go to the South East Regional Forum together. This happens every 2 years. In 2020, it was supposed to happen in Mississippi but due to the pandemic it was cancelled and a virtual forum took its place for the East. The 93 areas

that compose the General Service structure of the US and Canada are divided into 8 regions. The South East Regional Forum will be held December 2-4 in New Orleans. We have flyers available for you to take. There is no registration fee.

Regional forums are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions that provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas.

They are also intended to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and AA Grapevine, and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. Regional Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.

That's from our service manual. Now, you may think okay but what does that actually look like. This is an opportunity for everyone to get together no matter where you are in the upside-down triangle. You may recall Katy squishing the triangle during her delegate term. This demonstrates how the top and the bottom can come together and sit in the same seats, walk in the same hotel halls, ride in the same hotel elevators and of course drink from the same coffee pots as all of us. You will hear reports, go to workshops and participate in sharing sessions. So, if you think or feel that there is a disconnect between the top and the bottom of the triangle, regional forums are great events to take action, to learn, meet and connect. It's those times in between meetings where the magic happens. Friendships are made and information is clarified. I can read a memo or listen to a report and take super notes but that one-on-one time with the people serving below me is precious and so valuable. For a shy person like me, who may think I have no business talking to someone from GSO, it's an opportunity to understand how everyone is doing what they can to help carry the message. That seems to happen at dinners and waiting for elevators for me. Just standing around awkwardly with a bunch of AA friends I don't know, trying not to stare at my shoes, and my AA world seems to grow. Come and join me!

Now on to some First Quarter Financial Highlights from GSO!

- Year to date contributions are \$2.7 million. This represents 27% of the 2022 budget of \$10 million dollars with 25% of the year elapsed and is \$214,000 more than last year.
- Year to date gross literature sales are \$3 million. This represents 28% of the 2022 budget of \$11 million and \$173,000 more than last year.
- Total operating expense year to date is \$3.7 million which is 21% of the budget amount of \$17.5 million and \$53,000 more than last year.

So, what does all of this mean? It means that contributions and literature sales are continuing to be strong and exceeding budget expectations. However, things are proving to be more expensive (as we all are experiencing) and expenses are trending slightly higher. Think about how GSO and AAWS are reaching out to help the newcomer. Those dollar amounts aren't just being spent just to be spent. The dollars that we send in are helping someone find us, someone is reading about the solution, questions are answered and connections are made. That is what the 7th tradition is all about. That is the giant hand of AA reaching out and I am proud to have a dollar or 2 supporting it. Have you tried contributing online at aa.org? It is pretty easy to do and saves a stamp! Online contributions were 23% of the total in 2021

First Quarter Grapevine Highlights!

- Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 12.2% in the first quarter. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine decreased 20.73% also.
- The first quarter results from the Grapevine were a gross profit of \$218,000 on the magazine and \$182,000 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$93,000 resulted in an operating loss of \$86,000. Last year there was an income of \$32,000. I state this because there is a rumor that the Grapevine has never been profitable and that is just not true. Regardless if you haven't received your Grapevine magazine in the mail it might be time to renew! If we think the Grapevine is important then we need to support it.
- La Viña magazine circulation saw an increase by 3.4% in the first quarter compared to a significant decrease in 2021.

The Reserve Fund holds 7.84 months of expenses. The generally understood target range is 9 to 12 months.

Area 51 held 3 English speaking Preconferences in the Eastern, Central, and Western parts of our state and 1 Spanish speaking preconference along with some virtual delegate hours. It was wonderful to be able to come together and talk about some of the agenda items that were in front of the 72nd General Service Conference to decide on. I want to thank the Districts that hosted and a special thank you to the presenters who took their personal time digesting background information to explain it to the rest of us. The interest and passion that people displayed while expressing their opinion on particular items was an example of how we do things in AA. There were opposing opinions that were mostly expressed with respect to each other and the fellowship. Then we all came together and ate sandwiches, BBQ, Tacos, Chips, Cookies, Sweets and of course drank plenty of coffee! I love how the fellowship can express individual opinions and experiences all based in their love of AA and still be safe right in the middle of AA. I felt the new format for explaining the agenda items and facilitating discussion that Rainer experimented with really worked well. It was a full four hours. I know because I took the notes! I have heard some ideas out there in the districts about getting the word out about increasing attendance at the Preconferences. Let's keep brainstorming ideas about that. I think the most important thing we can do is to explain what it is, why we do it and that we had an interesting, informative and fun time. Their participation is desired, needed and wanted. The preconference events happen at the same time each year to prepare the delegate for conference. I know that next year and the year after that and maybe so on and so on that the Preconference events will happen in March. I also know that there is confusion about the difference between Preconference events and Assemblies. The General Service Conference that Rainer just reported about tackled 80 or so agenda items that would affect AA as a whole and lasts an entire week. The Area Assemblies can take on maybe 5 to 10 agenda items (sometimes more and that's a tight agenda) that affect North Carolina mostly and lasts a weekend. Could you imagine trying to handle the business of the Area and the most relevant Conference Agenda Items all in one weekend? It is simply not possible. This is why we schedule separate events outside of the Assembly so that we can really dig into the Conference Agenda items that the Delegate would like to hear the most feedback from our members in North Carolina. Concept 2 describes how we delegate our voices to the Delegate to represent us at Conference. We do not instruct them just as you are not instructed but informed from your groups here at the assembly. It says that in Tradition 2. We trust that the Delegate will make the best decision for AA as a whole, but if we don't show up and talk about things that might affect AA as a whole in our state, then we are definitely not instructing anyone and we are not informing anyone either. During our preconference discussions, I thought about how every Area in the US and Canada is doing a similar process at the same time. The decisions that are made at the General Service Conference effect the newcomer, the person looking for us, the person who needs help. I can be available to help the sick and suffering alcoholic that I see right in front of me. AA as a whole, all of us together with those around the US and Canada structure are being seen by so many nameless and faceless suffering alcoholics. We must come together to guide us into the future. We are the guardians of AA so it is up to us to show up and do the work. I know how rewarding it is to see the lights turn on in the eyes of a newcomer in our rooms. Doing the work at a large

scale may not have that immediate satisfaction of helping a new person get sober one-on-one, but I believe it is happening in places that I don't know and for people I haven't met because this fellowship comes together and maybe just maybe I was a small part of a great whole. General Service helps people get sober. It helps me stay sober by keeping me in the middle. Come and join us and I hope to see you all at the Preconferences next year.

In Love and Service,
Julie R.
Area 51 Alternate Delegate

Treatment Facilities Report:

Area 51 General Service Committee Meeting

Updated 06/16/2022.

Stanley H. TFC Area 51

1. As off, (02/28) there were no email request for (BTG) from any treatment facility. However, I did receive multiple phone calls for contact information and two requests from our area's chair for assistance with relocation.
2. The (BTG) contact list, is now been updated to a digital format. This information is confidential, so I am making the entries myself in lieu of my original request for help. The North Carolina TF and Providers Handbook is available online at, <http://www.ncdhs.gov/dhsr/data/mhllist.pdf> . This link will take you NCDSS where you can find the list of providers and facilities.
3. I attended the Central and Eastern Pre-conferences in April with a small TF display. I signed up some (BTG) volunteers digitally.
4. I attended (FFB) Corrections Conference in March with the TF display and a couple of service sponsees.
5. I was invited to speak at a group in Raleigh, which sponsors clients from the Healing Transition.
6. I received a forwarded email from our Registrar, for a meeting at Behavioral Health Inpatient Services at Forsyth Medical Center (Winston Salem, NC). They had meetings there in the past, and they would like to have meetings again. I am currently in contact with the unit manager, please let me know if your district (24, 23, 22, 19 or 18) can assist with this request.
7. Finally, the was one request from district 33 for a TF kit for a new coordinator. The TFC is able to help with material to get a meeting started, support a group, setup displays, and bridge the gap between AA and the facility.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your area's Treatment Facilities Coordinator,
Stanley H.,
stanleyhurlston1@gmail.com

PI Report:

June 2022 Assembly Report

Denise called me some time in early January and asked if I would consider completing the term as PI. I immediately replied "what does that mean"? She explained that I had a blank slate because PI/CPC had just been separated in the 2020 election cycle. I asked for a few days to pray, talk with my husband and consider. I immediately went on line to the GSO website and read the available literature. After several days, I did not feel God telling me NO, NO LINDA!!! So, I figured He probably wanted me to serve and give back. I've had quite a bit of help in getting started from Greg, Jon, Lisa who picked up materials from Marty for me and met me in Elkin to deliver and of course Denise plus the support of my husband at home. I was taught many years ago that God doesn't call the equipped, but He equips the called. One thing is for sure, if He doesn't show up – we're in big trouble!! So, here goes.

1. My first event was I January when I attended the Area 51 and Area 62 (SC) Presentation for the 2022 Winter Ministerial Retreat for the Pastors of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists – Demystifying Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous via Zoom. I attended as a learning experience having just begun in this position. Several AA members spent months in preparation for this meeting. I was privileged to attend and learn. It helped me begin the process of demystifying public information vs advertising and/or promotion.
2. Denise let me (and Jon) know about the "Area Service Sharing Session" which is held monthly. I have attended a couple of meetings via Zoom the first of which was in February. This meeting started at the beginning of the pandemic as a way for Chairs of all the Areas to share experience, strength and hope about transitioning general service work to a virtual setting. The delegate from Chicago organizes the meetings. The meeting in February focused on Tradition 11 and Public Information. It was a full agenda covering Attraction vs Promotion, What the GSO Public Information desk is working on, how 2 different Areas PI and CPC Service Committees are carrying the message and getting information out and what the GV is working on (like Podcasts and Social Media) to get the message out. The panel was comprised of a P71 Delegate, GSO Public Information Assignment, A19 CPC/PI chair, A30 Public Information Chair and a Class B GSO Trustee.

3. Immediately following the Sharing Session was the very first Annual North America CPC & PI Conference which I also attended via Zoom. There was an impressive panel of past area registrars, Class B Trustee from Canada, District PI/CPC chairs, past Class A Trustee, as well as a current Class A Trustee. There was also the PI Liaison Officer from East Lancashire Intergroup, England. There were approximately 200 attendees from all over the country.
4. I attended the North Carolina Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies in Greensboro Feb. 21 and 22 with Jon T, our CPC. Jon and I (mostly Jon) did a seminar on anonymity and our 11th tradition. Quite of a few of the attendees were friends of Bill and we received many “thank you’s” for being there.
5. In March I attended the Freedom from Bondage Conference which was my first time attending. I was overwhelmed and filled with gratitude at the stories shared.
6. I have been introduced to a wonderful group – National P.I. and CPC Working Group which meets the second Saturday of every month at 12:00 via Zoom. People from all over the country, Canada, and the U.K. meet to discuss various PI/CPC topics. The meeting in June focused on getting our websites to show up on search engines somewhere close to the front page so those that need us, can find us. If you’re interested in joining the group, email Picpceastbay@gmail.com and request being added to the email list. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this month because I was busy attending the first ever District 17 Founder’s Day Picnic which was a huge success. Past delegate Rachel was the speaker and our Literature Coordinator, Pat, and Grapevine Rep, Brooks both attended. The DCM, Mary O., did a wonderful job organizing the event.
7. Being new at this whole thing, I considered what course of action I needed to take to pull all of our District PI/CPCs together. I facilitated a Zoom meeting at the beginning of May. My goal was really to meet others serving in the PI position and learn what was happening in their districts. It too, was a learning experience for me. I plan to make this an on-going meeting. We will have a topic for discussion as well as sharing time. Please let either Jon, our CPC, or me know if you’d like to be added to our email list. You do not have to be a PI or CPC to be included.
8. Back in January when Denise asked me to serve, she forwarded an email that came from the Davidson Film Club asking if someone could attend their June meeting to “critique” the movie “Another Round”. Denise commented that it sounded like a wonderful opportunity for the new PI (wink, wink). That wonderful opportunity is happening next Saturday. Although a little nervous, I’m looking forward to this opportunity to represent Alcoholics Anonymous and that there is a solution.
9. One last thing – my District (District 17) has been inactive for several years until this year when Mary O. stepped up to be our DCM. In order to be helpful, I switched my area hat to a District hat and visited our local newspaper about putting our meeting list in the newspaper. They were happy to include us in the “events” section of the paper. Hopefully, alcoholics who do not know about us will see the meeting schedule and attend a meeting.

Personally, this has been an eye-opening experience for me. I had never given much thought to Public Information until Denise asked me to act as PI. I did not know that the first Public Information committee in AA was formed by the General Service Board in 1956. I have come to realize that we cannot cooperate with the professional community if the professional community does not know about us. How will they know about us without public information?? As our co-founder Bill W. wrote:

Public information takes many forms – the simple sign outside a meeting place that says “A.A. meeting tonight,” listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature; and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to “one drunk carrying the message to another drunk,” whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media. Every time I read this, I wonder what he’d think of the many ways of social media etc., we have of reaching people.

Please contact me if I can be of service to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Linda N.

CPC Report:

CPC Spring 2022

Attended:

3 precon

Inaugural Southeast Area Health Education Center Conference. Scott C District 4 assisted both days

NC Employee Assistance Program Conference (Atrium Health)

Met with Tri-County Intergroup CPC/PI Committee

Attending monthly zoom meetings with Metrolina CPC/PI Committee

Assisting District 51 CPC/PI at Founders Day in Fayetteville

In July we will man a literature display at NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies and present a workshop about anonymity followed by an open meeting. A big shoutout to District 4!! Scott C Alt DCM and Cathy M CPC/PI will be assisting at both.

Archives Report:

Keith M.

Archivist

402 Canyon Lake Circle

Morrisville, NC 27560

Phone: (919) 667-4957

E-mail: archivist@aanorthcarolina.org

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 am delivering this report through the fog of a long haul covid brain so please excuse any trip ups or slips.

I am so excited to announce that our first digital material is now available online. Thanks to the NC State Archives and Digital NC the Story can now be read online in all its glory. [LINK](#) The link will be provided in the meeting minutes.

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 they are looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in July.

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

We recently celebrated our 87th birthday so I wanted to share a little about the stories we've heard about how AA started.

Set the stage – It's early 1930's alcoholism was a heavily debated social issue. But unfortunately, there are no "real cures" or solutions for alcoholism. Instead, there are quack solutions that no one trusts or have been proven ineffective long-term solutions.

"Memory frequently remembers what the present wants to hear."

What does this mean? Humans tend to modify memories so that they more positively reflect later realities. We seem to naturally need to create a smooth story that neatly fits "what happened" into "where we are now."

November 1934 - Bill meets with Ebby – tells Ebby's version of the story

Bill tells the story – he sat drinking gin in his kitchen. His friend Ebby showed up and told him how he was staying sober using the Oxford Group method – a simple religious idea and practical program of action.

Ebby's Story – Tells a different version of the story

A phone call to the Wilsons' house, he gets Lois on the phone and tells her how he is staying sober. She invites him to come by and talk to Bill about it

Ebby arrives on the agreed-upon date (late November or early December 1934), 5:30 PM EST

Ebby's greeted by an elder black man named GREEN – they are both out (Bill and Lois) but come on in

Bill gets home, a little bit drunk, then soon makes an excuse to leave – get ice cream or other things for dinner – Ebby knew he was also going to get more alcohol or drunk

Lois arrives home with a girl who lives in an upstairs apartment in the Wilson home.

Soon after Bill gets home, they all have dinner, and there is a little talk about the solution. After dinner, they move upstairs to the living room Lois asks Ebby to talk about the solution – he talks until 1:00 AM

Bill walks Ebby to the subway station and tells Ebby, "I don't know what you've got, kid, but you've got something I want to get"

Ebby says Bill didn't quit drinking that night, "but the idea was in there, and the idea happened to get in Bill's head."

Ebby told his version of the meeting several times over the years, stating what you read in the Big Book is a little different – he explains the differences in the story by saying, "I was sober that night, and Bill was drunk."

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:

My name is Craig and I am an alcoholic and your current Site-Investigation Subcommittee Chair. First of all I want to thank our subcommittee members for their dedicated service and hard work without which our Area Committee Meetings, Area Assemblies, and State Conventions would

not have venues to conduct the business of AA in North Carolina. I am also grateful for the support of past subcommittee chairs on whose tested experience the subcommittee will most undoubtedly rely.

Your subcommittee meets virtually every month and spent the first half of 2022 working on our most pressing need: that of securing bids and ultimately a contract for our Winter Committee Meeting in 2025. I am happy to report we should have a completed contract in time for inclusion on the agenda of our Summer Committee Meeting later this year and it will be put before you at our Fall Election Assembly. We are also looking beyond that meeting to fulfill our mandate of securing suitable venues across the state of North Carolina for our Area Committee Meetings, Area Assemblies, and State Conventions in 2025, 2026, and 2027. Your subcommittee will have more to report on these activities at our next meeting this fall.

I thank you for and am humbled by the opportunity to serve and look forward to seeing you all in November,
In love and service, your subcommittee chair

Convention Report:

My name is Elizabeth P. and I have the Honor of being your NC State Convention Chair.

I look forward to seeing everyone next month at the 2022 Convention this year on July 7-10.

NC State Convention at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills.

The Theme this year is, Love and Service.

The Convention will open on Thursday night with this years NC speaker, Felix H. from Wilmington. Many of us know already know Felix because of how active he has been in AA service for many years.

Though out the weekend we will be having all the same events that you have enjoyed through the years such as:

- The Old-Timer Panel
- God as we Understand Him
- Workshops
- Marathon Meetings
- Dance

We have also added a couple of other things, but you might just have to come to see them.

Our current registration is 598

We have exceeded our room block by 74 room nights and the only rooms left are on the executive level at \$199.00 per night. The normal rate for these rooms is \$279.00

We have a Registration table set up, so that you can register this weekend. There are plenty of Fliers on the Registration Table, so feel free to take some back to your friends and meetings.

I would like to take time to thank the Convention Committee, for not only the incredible work they have done this year but for also stepping up and going beyond what was asked of them while I was going through some health problems last year. I could not have asked for a better committee.

I would also like to thank all of you for allowing me to be a part something that has meant so much to me since my early sobriety.

When my sponser "suggested" that I work at the pre-registration desk at my first Convention, I did not know that it would be one of my first steps to start feeling like I was a part you instead of watching you from the outside.

By working at the registration desk, I have developed friendships with people from all over the state that I first spoke to at the registration desk. People that I still look forward to seeing every year at the Convention.

So please come join us this year at the NC State Convention as we Celebrate our Sobriety.

Webmaster Report:

Hey all, I'm Kavaruss, alcoholic. This is the webmaster's report. First, I would like to extend much gratitude to Nancy, 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 this past year. Also special thanks to Denise, Greg, and others who have done such an excellent job of handling our 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. There are currently 19 districts that are being synced. We have been aiming at weekly syncs with the districts that support the Meeting Guide app. We have a districts (<https://aanorthcarolina.org/resources/districts/>) and intergroup page (<https://aanorthcarolina.org/resources/intergroups-central-offices/>) that link to the respective district/intergroup site if the meetings are listed there as well. We now have 20 district and 9 intergroup sites linked! 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 added a Frequently Asked Questions page that should help with users trying to navigate the website and find pertinent information for the area. 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. We are expanding our list of events that can be posted on the website for notices of Area 51 intergroup, district and YPAA-sponsored events. 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.

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. We are working with Jon and Karen soon to have pertinent information about CPC and Accessibilities. We are also working through details to add information and links for the archives data that Keith has been working on. We suggest that the Area committee members provide us with the content that you would like to see on your page!

Task System

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, which is the most efficient way to ensure multiple people can view and access your concern or question. We will follow up as soon as possible and make changes as reasonably as possible.

Thanks!

Spanish Language Report:

Area 51 Fall Committee & Assembly June 17-19, 2022 Area 51 Interpreter's report

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

Since our Area 51 Fall Committee Meeting & Assembly in November of last year, I attended several events as your Area 51 Interpreter. During this period I had six invitations to share my story in my district and the surrounding area, which is always a humbling experience. And I mediated a group inventory in New Bern, which is an awesome experience. Doing anything for AA is always an honor and a privilege.

ATTENDED:

Feb 12-13 – CPC/PI conference (via Zoom) to translate.
Mar 5-6 – Winter Committee Meeting in Durham.
Mar 11-13 – Area 51 Corrections Conference "Freedom from Bondage" in Aberdeen.
Apr 2 – Tri-Area Intergroup Grapevine workshop to translate for the Linguistic districts in Cary.
Apr 9 – Eastern Pre-Conference in Williamston.
Apr 10 – Spanish Pre-Conference in Selma to translate for Linguistic districts.
Jun 17-19 – Spring Committee Meeting & Assembly in Charlotte.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

As of now, I have no scheduled events on my calendar. I'm sure that will change shortly, it always does.

Note. I purchased 10 receivers to replace defective ones in our inventory that we've had for a long time.

Good news: With a little help (including from many of you), we have some leads on my replacement.

I look forward to the rest of the year continuing to serve our fellowship in whatever way God would have me serve. That's all I have to report at this time. Thank you.

In Love and Service,
Rick L.
Area 51 Interpreter

Accessibilities Report:

Hi, my name is Karen and I am an alcoholic.

Thank you for the privilege of being you Area 51 Accessibilities Coordinator.

I have not had a lot of activity in my goal to have districts create a accessibilities committee.

I know that some districts use their Intergroup as the Hub. I have gone to a few Intergroup sites. They did not have an Accessibilities committee listed.

I know that both groups and districts do reach out to those who have accessibility issues. But as you know, accessibilities encompass a larger need than giving rides and handicap access. I brought my posters and set them up for everyone to see the many service opportunities. The hand of AA is needed in all these areas.

I know that every district may not be able to support a new committee. It should not stop you from looking at the needs in your district. You may discover there is a lot more need than you had originally thought.

As coordinator, I am here to support you in what ever way I can when it comes to accessibilities.

I will hopefully have a tab on our website that will give you information on how to go through the process of starting your committee.

It will have background information to help you bring forth a motion in your district.

It will have links to GSO so you can use the accessibilities information they have to offer.

If your District is interested, I will buy a handbook for you district. It has most of the information that will be available on the area web. If you believe this would help you make a more informed decision regarding starting an accessibilities committee, please let me know.

I have some Brail versions of the AA literature that I want to offer to any District of Intergroup who can find need for them. Also, if you have no objection, whatever literature is left, I would like to ask other areas if they can use this literature.

I continue to have a monthly meeting on the last Wed of the month at 8 pm. Right now I am using my zoom account but I will be asking our area if I could use the area zoom account. This would help future coordinator continue meetings without having to have their own zoom account. It would also make it available to anyone who would like to come to the meeting with out getting the zoom information from me.

My monthly meeting has been looking through the handbook and discussing its contents.

Did you know there is a version of the 12 Steps the 12 Traditions, and the Serenity Prayer written for ASL interpreters? I had wondered why? Talked with someone from the deaf community and was told it was easier for the ASL interpreter as not all our words are the same.

I still have 2 Goals to achieve before I rotate out. One is the web tab and the other is a workshop.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Accessibilities coordinator.

Financial Statements: Next 2 Pages

AREA 51 - NCGSC

2022 1ST QRT REPORT MAR 31 2022

GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 01/01/22 \$31,827.00

Receipts:

Contributions (Grp., Dist., Inter	\$	25,889	
Venmo, PayPal & Stripe	\$	3,909	\$ 29,798 MATCHES CONTRIBUTION SHEET
Literature/ GRAPEVINE Sales	\$	1,664	
Coffee Contributions	\$	53	
GSO Contribution	\$	288	
INTEREST	\$	1	
Total Income	\$	31,804	

Expenditures:

Assembly/Meetings	\$	9,932	
Communications	\$	4,711	
Literature Purchases/Sales Tax	\$	2,440	
Archives Rent/Insurance	\$	1,587	
BANK CHARGES	\$	12	
DEPOSITS FOR 2023-2024	\$	4,000	
DONATION GSO	\$	288	
Officer and Coordinator Expenses	\$	10,393	
Total Expense	\$	33,363	\$ 30,268

GENERAL FUND CHECKING BALANCE 03/31/22 \$ 30,268

MONEY MARKET SAVINGS ACCOUNT

PRUDENT RESERVE (GENERAL FUND)	\$	63,652
PRUDENT RESERVE (NC CONVENTION)	\$	13,566
ARCHIVES SURPLUS FUND	\$	386
SURPLUS MID TERM 2021-2022	\$	8,761
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CONTR	\$	11,725
PRUDENT RESERVE (CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE)	\$	2,334
PROPERTY & ACQUISITION FUND	\$	5,000
SURPLUS 2019-2020	\$	6,249
INTEREST	\$	-

MONEY MARKET TOTAL 03/31/22 \$ 111,673

CORRECTIONS CHECKING BALANCE 03/31/22 \$ 1,898

TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS \$ 143,839

Contributions by District to Area 51

As of March 31, 2022

District	DISTRICT TOTALS *		CONTRIBUTIONS TO AREA 51			
	Groups	Members	Contributions	Groups	Members	% Total Groups
1	19	311	546.85	3	55	15.79
2	16	254	922.00	3	59	18.75
3	46	854	880.07	12	295	26.09
4	32	642	676.60	9	184	28.13
5	9	58	10.00	1	3	11.11
11	18	347	401.30	3	146	16.67
12	45	535	737.59	8	160	17.78
13	23	306	495.81	2	32	8.70
14	8	95	0.00	0	0	0.00
15	4	46	0.00	0	0	0.00
16	2	8	0.00	0	0	0.00
17	8	112	0.00	0	0	0.00
18	29	468	630.80	3	103	10.34
19	21	279	526.85	2	40	9.52
21	28	383	895.74	2	15	7.14
22	9	103	0.00	0	0	0.00
23	60	1,061	674.00	5	105	8.33
24	31	527	697.00	3	116	9.68
30	17	154	337.01	0	0	0.00
31	55	898	445.86	7	168	12.73
32	38	762	244.80	5	143	13.16
33	40	917	1,448.84	3	57	7.50
34	40	768	1,005.03	8	226	20.00
35	40	796	433.72	5	164	12.50
41	46	1,113	1,797.27	8	239	17.39
42	27	572	617.55	2	62	7.41
43	55	1,716	2,162.08	7	386	12.73
44	18	389	179.15	1	20	5.56
45	34	452	1,122.41	5	58	14.71
50	30	395	1,023.86	6	79	20.00
51	31	726	1,633.15	4	361	12.90
52	25	416	725.00	2	75	8.00
60	27	613	3,765.54	10	343	37.04
70	60	1,038	966.94	10	367	16.67
71	27	427	451.51	9	147	33.33
80	28	303	295.68	3	49	10.71
91	24	274	135.00	3	54	12.50
92	19	260	60.00	1	40	5.26
93	21	302	117.60	1	7	4.76
VEN-PAY-			2,736.00			
Total *	1,110	18,541	\$29,798.61	148	4,208	13.33