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

CHAIRPERSON
chair@aanorthcarolina.org

SECRETARY
secretary@aanorthcarolina.org

**SPRING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 16, 2025
HILTON RALEIGH NORTH HILLS, NC**

#	MAIN MOTIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION TAKEN	PG.
1	Approve the Minutes of the 2025 Winter Committee Meeting.	Amended Minutes will be approved at the Summer Committee Meeting	3-4

Call to Order / Serenity Prayer

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

Opening reading: Tony D., DCM50, read an excerpt from Language of the Heart – How Services Make AA Tick, November 1951, by Bill W. on page 134.

That event marked the passing of responsibility for our world services from Dr. Bob, our friends, and myself, to you—the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Support and guard these assets well; the lives and fortunes of millions, the very survival of AA itself, may depend much upon how well you discharge this, your newfound obligation. Let us make our services respectable; let us rank them in importance with the Twelve Steps of recovery and the Twelve Principles of AA Tradition. Let us forget our fear of over-organization; let us remember that AA as a whole cannot be organized; but that we must so organize and support our special services that AA can function. Let us forget our early fears of professionalism, of the accumulation of wealth, of government. Experience, now fortified by our Traditions, has already assured us none of these evils are likely to descend upon us. Above all, let's change our old attitudes about money. Collectively, AA members earn an enormous income because of their sobriety; it's a one-half a billion-dollar bonanza each year. Can we not wisely, gratefully, and humbly reinvest a tiny fraction of this vast sum in those vital services that make AA tick? I think we can, and I think we shall. For in our own lives we have seen sobriety produce money, and in our AA services we have seen a little money produce incalculable spiritual dividends. Let's think this all through again. By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified, and through our Third Legacy—Service—we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this, I am happily confident.

Introductions

Lindsey introduced the Panel 75 Area Officers, Service Coordinators, and Standing Committee & Workgroup Chairs. Next, she welcomed all past Delegates, past Trustees, special guests, and all DCMs and Alternate DCMs who attended their first committee meeting. The Spanish-language translator, Julia C., could not participate in the weekend. Lluvia was unable to make the committee meeting but Denie C., our DCM04, will provide Spanish-language interpretation in her place. Sue H., the area registrar, was absent.

Roll Call – During the roll call by Amy K., Secretary, these were the committee members present as well as those who were in attendance before we closed our session for the evening:

AREA OFFICERS, STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND PAST DELEGATES

Denise M., Delegate	Paul M., Literature Coordinator	Justin O., Website Chair
Greg K., Alternate Delegate	Alison M., Treatment Coordinator	John D., Assembly Theme and Workshop Chair
Lindsey H., Area Chair	Scott H., Grapevine Coordinator	Lindsay B., Budget and Finance Chair
Debbi A., Alternate Chair	Alana E., CPC Coordinator	Alan L., Growth and Maintenance Chair
Amy K., Secretary	George S., PI Coordinator	Kenneth C., Past Delegate Panel 67
Nancy B., Treasurer	Jerry W., Corrections Coordinator	Julie R., Past Delegate Panel 73
Patrick D., Archivist	Scott S., Accessibilities Coordinator	Newton P., Past Delegate Panel 57, Trustee-at-Large US 2017-2021
Lizzy T., Convention Chair, Site Investigation Chair	Alan G., Webmaster	Scott H., Trustee-At-Large Canada 2015-2019, General Service Board Chair
Kimberly M., Alternate Convention Chair		

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

01 Carl B.	18 Boscoe F.	50 Tony D.
02 Rose S.	21 Wendy A-H.	51 Amanda K.
03 Sharon G.	23 Kyle R.	52 Jason W.
04 Denie C.	30 Cesar H.	60 Linwood M.
05 Hermenejildo., A.	31 Jodi D.	70 Rick P.
11 Elizabeth P.	32 Philip H.	71 Alan L.
12 Marty M.	33 John D.	80 Bob K.
13 Kim T.	35 Andrew M.	91 Kevin L.
17 Thomas B.	41 Lindsay B.	92 Albert T.

ALTERNATE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

02 Denise P.	33 Mike D.
03 Caitlin O.	35 Heather S.
05 Naun E.	41 Scott H.
11 Lisa P.	52 Will S.
15 Katherine D.*	60 Josh B.
21 Alison S.	80 Ellen W.
23 Don M.	91 Earl R.
24 Larry C.*	92 Jimi S.
32 Megan P.	

*Alt DCM with a vote

There were 44 voting members present, the quorum was 29.

Administrative Announcements:

Lindsey announced that the parlor is located in room 536, and area officers are available to assist throughout the weekend. Lindsey thanked the DCMs for doing a great job in getting the word out about the importance of staying at the host hotel. We met our room block. We did not utilize any of the DCM Unity Fund requests, but we did use two of the GSR Unity Fund requests. She reminded the committee that if anyone experiences problems with reservations for the committee meeting or assembly, they should contact the Area Chair. Regarding the State Convention, see Lizzy T. The Alternate Chair, Debbi A., is responsible for addressing any issues with the hotel and will notify the Chair of any significant or recurring problems that require management attention.

Debbi A., Alternate Chair, reminded the DCMs to obtain their district number cards and to arrive at the conference room early to secure a spot and ensure that everyone is seated near or with their districts.

Lindsey, Chair, briefly went over the handouts for the weekend. She reminded everyone about the upcoming September 2025 Summer Committee Meeting to be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Please make your reservations early for this event to ensure you receive the discounted room rate, as the hotel will sell out of reservations.

Agenda Overview - Lindsey reminded everyone that the primary purpose of this Committee Meeting is to finalize plans for the Saturday and Sunday Assembly, share information that may be pertinent, and handle any new business that can't wait until our Summer Committee meeting. The agenda calls for us to adjourn at 10:00 pm, but that's just an estimate – we'll adjourn when we're done. She noted a couple of adjustments to the Assembly Agenda.

Adoption of the Agenda - Lindsey asked if there were any changes or corrections to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted.

Adopt Rules of Order and Debate – Lindsey turned the microphone over to Debbi A., Alternate Chair, to read through **How the Area 51 Committee/Assembly Operates**. These are based on practices adapted from the General Service Conference, which in turn are based on Robert's Rules of Order. Lindsey asked if there were any objections to adopting the rules of order and debate. Hearing none, the rules of debate were adopted.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from the 2025 Winter Committee Meeting were previously emailed to members of the Area Committee and posted on the Area Website. There being no objections, the reading of the minutes was waived. There was some discussion regarding corrections and/or additions to the minutes.

Discussion:

Lindsay B., DCM41: I was not able to be at the Winter committee meeting. I reviewed the minutes, specifically to see the motion that we submitted from the budget and finance subcommittee, of which I am the chair, regarding what happened and the discussion that ensued. And I noticed that the motion wording had changed, so I looked to see if there were any amendments, and there weren't. I looked through it some more, and I realized that the other agenda items also had different wording than what was originally printed. Now I face the challenge of writing a motion and having it returned to me because the wording is not precise enough. I know how important that can be. I thought about it, and I believe that an accurate historical record is sufficient for me to

say something and to honor what we decide as a committee, precisely what we decide as a committee. I think this is the right thing to do. I want to propose an amendment to the minutes. I wrote it down so that I could send it to you, so you know exactly what I'm saying. I want to make a motion to amend the winter committee minutes so that the agenda items and background information match the exact language from the winter committee agenda, and any amendments that change the language will be noted.

Denie, DCM04: I second the discussion.

Lindsey: We don't have to vote. It's just a correction that I will accept.

Tom B., DCM17: Is it possible to hear the original versus what was printed?

Amy K., Area 51 Secretary: The changes regarding the wording of the agenda items and background have already been addressed, as well as the issue regarding the anonymity of my email.

Lindsey: Before I entertain a motion to accept the corrected minutes, please, when making a motion, go to the microphone and state your name and service position.

Tony D., DCM50: Please change my district in the minutes to District 50.

Sharon G., DCM03: Will we receive the corrected minutes for review?

Lindsey: So, we're going to send out a corrected version of the minutes, and then we will approve these at our summer committee meeting in September.

Phil H., DCM32: Is it correct on here, the agenda that's been handed out to one?

Lindsey: This agenda was written off the winter committee agenda. So, the agenda items for tomorrow are verbatim what we voted on at winter. That's a good question for clarity. Thank you

Treasurer's Report – Nancy B., Treasurer: Nancy began her report with appreciation for all the groups that contributed throughout the year and a reminder to check the contributions spreadsheet available on the website to ensure all contributions have been received. Groups are encouraged to make contributions either by check or digitally through the "Contribute" button on the website. A new mailing address—PO Box 11104, Wilmington, NC 28404—was established on January 1, and treasurers are asked to include their group number on all checks to ensure proper allocation. Additionally, PayPal is available as a contribution method upon request. In the first quarter, the area received \$22,639 in income from group contributions, literature and Grapevine sales, and coffee contributions. Expenses totaled \$30,701, which included costs for the Winter Committee Meeting, communications, literature purchases, archives rent and insurance, transition expenses, and officer and coordinator support. Despite the shortfall, the general fund checking balance at the end of the quarter was \$7,759, totaling \$84,349. The approved 2025 budget is \$142,149, reflecting increases driven by recent inflation. Although the area currently has sufficient funds to cover expenses, it is relying on its prudent reserve to do so. Over the past few years, the area has consistently experienced a budget deficit, largely due to group contributions. For example, between 2021 and 2022, despite a one-time \$11,500 donation from the International Women's Conference, the area still spent approximately \$10,800 more than it received from group contributions. Similarly, in 2023 and 2024, there was a shortfall of \$11,470.19, representing a 22% increase in expenses since 2021. Funds are sufficient to meet obligations through 2026, but without an increase in contributions, expenses may need to be reduced. The Budget and Finance subcommittee is actively reviewing the budget to identify potential areas for cost-cutting. Lastly, the update on the 501(c)(3) status confirms that, although the IRS determination letter is still pending due to delays, the organization has already been recognized as tax-exempt and approved as such by the North Carolina Secretary of State as of 2024. The pending IRS letter would grant access to certain third-party benefits, but it does not affect the current requirement to file taxes as a tax-exempt entity. Members are encouraged to reach out with any questions or for additional support.
treasurer@aanorthcarolina.org Please see the report and financial statements at the end of the 2025 Spring Assembly minutes.

Lindsey H., Chair: We just heard Nancy share about our finances and the budget and finance subcommittee's approach to reviewing the 2026 budget with a focus on negotiables and non-negotiables. One area the officers have been considering is our spending on printed materials: for example, the handouts for this assembly cost \$603. While the winter committee meeting minutes used fewer copies of agendas and schedules, we printed over 800 copies of pre-conference flyers. Altogether, printing handouts adds up to nearly \$2,000 annually. Given that most handouts are already posted on the area website and emailed out at least a month prior to each committee meeting or assembly, we've been exploring the idea of going paperless. Some ideas that have come up include emailing all handouts in advance so members can access them digitally or print their copies to bring with them if they prefer using an app or a digital hub that houses all handouts for each meeting weekend, providing a QR code at the back of the room that links directly to that hub. We'd now like to open the floor for some discussion. We'll discuss the possibility of discontinuing printed handouts for these meetings for about 10 minutes at most. We welcome your thoughts, concerns, and any additional suggestions that you may have.

Discussion:

Wendy A-H., DCM21: Although I love trees and I'm a tree hugger, I know that having a hard copy to hand out to people is a lot easier. I make copies when I'm going to my district, and believe me, I've gone through 750 pages printing out information on just the International Convention. I think, like at the committee meeting, I noticed that we had quite an abundance of the committee flyers. No, if we have 99 districts, why are we printing 200 committee flyers? Maybe that's one of those areas that we could look at a little bit closer. I know that having that available, not everybody can access the internet very well. Some areas have a difficult time with that, and when you're scrolling through pages and pages, trying to pick out the specific ones that you want to be able to present to your districts is very time-consuming, as you probably know. As I said, I'm a tree hugger. I love the fact that, you know,

we can recycle, but I don't know the answer to how we can reduce the quantity of paper. I understand that some of us prefer to have the paper on hand to distribute to others. Thank you.

Megan alt-DCM32: I think it's a great idea. I like the idea of doing a phased approach, though, so maybe over a year and a half or something. So, go ahead and start working toward that, but having a reserve of materials available for people coming into the committee may not have conveyed the message that they won't have handouts, and some people don't have access to printers to print them—my thoughts.

Don M., DCM23: I'm all for less printing, but maybe paper reduction rather than ending all paper, particularly. I think it's essential to have an agenda, because you're going to have one. I know that I use the agenda and take notes and take that back. I use that at my district, and I use it at the assembly as well.

Alan L., DCM71: I'd like to echo what Don said about paper reduction, and maybe don't need as many printed, you know, agenda items. However, I do like this—the general service conference advisory action, which is a printed form. So, you know, I can take that to my district meetings, and people could take that back to their groups so they can have it in their hand, because if I tell them, it's online, they may or may not, you know, take it back to their groups or get it printed. Thank you.

Justin O., DCM43: Also known as the voice of the youth. I'm just kidding, no, but seriously, for this, specifically, I feel like my home group, not my previous home group. We've been barking up this tree, no pun intended, for a long time. As far as getting away from paper, they always come back to me, like coming back with all these papers, like, we don't know what all these papers are for. It's a very digital generation. So, I'm not saying, you know, it's just like I would feel very compelled to speak on behalf of them, because they've been saying this for a long time. So, no, doesn't everyone agree with that, but the kids do. I'm out.

Kyle, DCM23: I piggyback off what our alt-DCM there said, and I do think that we could reduce the amount of paperwork that is given out. One idea I just had was that maybe it could be an opt-in system. So, it seems that some districts would prefer to have that, while others may not. If they want to opt in, they can; we can print and prepare theirs, and everyone else can use their phones.

Kevin L., DCM91: I know I'm probably a dinosaur and I'm maybe the only one here that still subscribes to and reads an actual newspaper, but I can tell you all the things you suggested, you know, emailing it, QR, code, you know, all those things are employed in my occupation. And, you know, it's just how things are going. And I feel like, if I can do it, anybody ought to be able to do it. So, I support that.

Nancy, Area Treasurer: As the past registrar, I would like to review the packets that everyone receives, such as the one you received tonight, and ask if we need to print all of them. I know that for many years we've been trying to, and when I was the registrar, I had probably six or seven districts say they wanted a digital version, while everybody else wanted it printed. It could be a way to reduce costs by not printing everything.

Elizabeth P., DCM11: I like having an agenda, and I like having the budget items with paper so that I can write on them and make notes, but I think things like the weekend schedule could very easily be done with the QR code. I mean, I don't use it for all that much, except very briefly looking at it. One thing I would suggest, though, if we do decide to stop printing certain items, is that we still need to have a few on hand. There are some people who require printed materials, and it's more of an accessibility issue. Instead of printing 400, we can print maybe 50.

Sharon G., DCM03: The Eastern preconference had some QR codes on the tables, and so we had some great feedback about that. Some people preferred not to use it. I think this might be a great transition for us to start making, as QR codes have been around for a few years. Some people still aren't used to them, but I think it's a sign that you know the world is moving forward, so thank you.

Rose S., DCM02: When we came today and we saw all the papers, I brought a lot of GSRs with me from my district, and they were like, Oh, my God, what? What is going on here? Didn't we receive this in the email that I sent them? You know, because everything you sent me, I sent to them so they, they got a little overwhelmed with all the papers when I got my DCM packet, there were some missing things in it, but I already had everything on my phone and stuff, so I just thought it was redundant, you know, and that it could save the area and districts a whole lot of money just going with what's on our QR codes or our website and, you know, the webmaster does such a great job, you know? So that's how we feel. Thank you.

Mack, DCM60: Do we only spend \$2,000 a year on printing?

Lindsey, Chair: On the assembly and committee meeting handouts. In my estimate, I was referring to the handouts that we have. I did not include information about registration packets, so there will be printing for that as well. Additionally, there may be some alternate delegate printing for pre-conferences.

Mack DCM60: We don't have the total cost of printing for the year for Area 51?

Lindsey, Chair: No.

Mack DCM60: Okay, I know we just saw my printing, but when I look at total expenses for travel at \$30,701 I know the finance and budget committee is going to look at where we can cut, but there's a lot of other areas that can be cut to where we have paper for people that need paper. Just a point. Thank you.

Amy K., Secretary Area 51: I'm going to state probably a very unpopular opinion, as we spend a lot of money just on printing these out, and you know, with the budget being the way it is, we're dipping into prudent reserves to make ends meet. I think there should be an opt-in option that, if you know somebody who wants that great then let us know, but otherwise, we have all these incredible technological advances, you know, DCMs, if they feel like it, can print that stuff at home and bring it here, versus having the area cover it for them, with that. I'll pass.

Hermenejildo, DCM05: (interpreted from Spanish): Although they appreciate the printing that goes for the Spanish flyers, the multiple copies aren't necessarily they aren't necessary so much, because the DCM can take one copy and that's enough for them to go back and carry the message and print it out there as a way to, an idea to save money.

Will, Alt-DCM52: I heard there was a concern about flipping through PDFs and similar issues, as it's hard to find specific content. We can make this content searchable using tools like Google Drive, making it easier to find things. And then somebody brought up travel. Yeah, that's a way bigger number than \$2,000, thanks.

Delegate's Report – Denise M., Delegate, Panel 75: Denise greeted everyone and expressed gratitude to Scott for traveling from north of Vancouver to attend, acknowledging the long journey involving two layovers. During their ride from the airport to the hotel, he shared his enthusiasm for meeting people in the area. She encouraged attendees to welcome him warmly in North Carolina, anticipating reciprocal hospitality when they visit Vancouver in July. She disclosed that she would soon undergo right shoulder surgery, scheduled shortly after the event. As she is right-handed, she mentioned that responses to communications might be delayed, with her partner Greg assisting by typing as she dictates. She asked for patience during her recovery period, which spans the six weeks between the current event and the upcoming international gathering in Vancouver. Additionally, she shared that she had been home for less than two weeks following a trip to New York with Scott. She concluded by expressing appreciation for the love and support received over the weekend. delegate@aanorthcarolina.org

Greg K., Alternate Delegate, reminded those chairing the workshops to please get in touch with him immediately after this meeting so he can provide them with the necessary literature. altdelegate@aanorthcarolina.org

Deferred Reports will be attached to the 2025 Assembly minutes.

Alternate Delegate – Deferred.
Archives – Deferred.
Budget & Finance – Deferred.
CPC – Deferred.
PI – Deferred.
Corrections – Deferred.
Grapevine – Deferred.
Literature – Deferred.
Site Investigation– Deferred.
State Convention – Deferred.
Treatment Facilities – Deferred.
Accessibility – Deferred.
Webmaster – Deferred.
Website – Deferred.
Workgroup on Workshop/Theme – Deferred.
Growth & Maintenance – Deferred.

Committee Meeting Overview

Lindsey reviewed the various handouts and discussed the weekend's schedule. She also brought to everyone's attention the workshops and the time set aside for subcommittee groups to meet. Lindsey reviewed the list of Saturday morning workshops to ensure everyone was ready to go. Archives will be in the Judicial room, and the coordinator's displays are located in the pre-function area. She also reminded everyone that during the weekend, the State Convention Committee will be available for early registration.

Lindsey reminded everyone that the assembly business will start at 1:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm, and to notify Debbi A., Alternate Chair, in advance if your District has a GSR in attendance with accessibility issues. District Number signs will also be available after this meeting from Debbi. Please hold up your sign so that the GSRs can see you. This is a two-day event, so remind all your GSRs they are expected to return on Sunday to ensure there are enough attendees to make a quorum. Saturday evening will be devoted to Workshops that DCMs and Alt DCMs will be chairing. The workshops will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 and then repeat from 8:45 to 9:45 pm. On Sunday morning, the schedule begins at 8:30 am. There will be an open speaker meeting featuring our guest Scott H., following which we will reconvene our closed business session. We will hear workshop reports, which should be a GSR or an Alternate GSR. This gives newer people the opportunity to get up in front of the assembly and helps them to feel a part of the area and general service. There will be a sharing session on Sunday focused on the delegates' conference report from the previous day. This session presents an opportunity for attendees to engage and discuss the report's contents. The agenda includes a sharing session and the "Ask It" basket segment, providing platforms for questions and discussions. Our guest and delegate, Denise, will be available to assist with any inquiries during these sessions. A raffle for the banner will be conducted, and the meeting is scheduled to adjourn by 11:30 AM. Please note that the timing of the agenda is tentative and may change based on the order of business. There were no questions regarding the weekend schedule.

She confirmed that there was a timekeeper from District 3, and vote counters were confirmed from Districts 91 and 32. Lindsey also confirmed that greeters from District 31 were assigned to help with assembly registration. Workshops were verified. Lindsey pointed out that there are three agenda items on the agenda that were discussed at the Winter Committee meeting. She briefly read through all the motions. Lindsey asked if there was any other new business that needed to come before this committee. Hearing none, she moved on.

Lindsey reminded the Committee that the Summer Committee Meeting is typically a time to plan the Area 51 Pre-Conferences. In the Summer Committee Notice, you will receive information about the Pre-Conferences and how your district can host one of these.

Regarding the Summer Committee Meeting, Lindsey reminded everyone of important dates and information:

- Agenda Items with Background Information - Deadline is August 8 or earlier.
- If you have a motion that will need to be included in the Summer Committee Notice, get in touch with Lindsey as soon as possible.
- If you want to get an agenda item on the notice, the deadline is July 11. An item does not need to be on the notice to be included on the agenda.
- If you know you are bringing a motion forward, but do not have the details yet, let her know. It may be appropriate to put a general item on the notice.
- Any requests for the Unity Fund must be received by August 8.
- If you need any information from our archivist, Patrick D., please submit your request to him as soon as possible.
- If you need help crafting a motion, please reach out to Lindsey.
- At the Summer Committee, we will also consider the proposed 2025 budget, allowing our Treasurer time to examine budget requests and, if necessary, discuss them with the Chair. Please submit your budget requests as soon as possible.

Lindsey then turned the floor over to the committee for a sharing session or the opportunity to ask Denise (Area Delegate) any questions.

Sharing Session

Denise M., Delegate: I am excited that many people have read the minutes and identified issues with them. However, I wanted to remind everyone that email is also a viable option, right? It doesn't have to be brought forward here. If you encounter a problem, please email Amy. I'm sure she would be happy to make the corrections, and then we wouldn't have to postpone fixing the minutes later. I know I served as secretary an eon ago, and I remember thinking, did you have to go to the mic to tell me that? You could have just emailed me, like. So, there's a little level of that too. Just remember, we're all new to this. This is our first assembly. Thank you, Amy, for all your work. I know it's like taking on a new job is hard; believe me, I know it's hard. I just wanted to share that if you'd like, you could email in advance, which might make everybody's life a little simpler.

We adjourned with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted, Amy K., Secretary

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding the minutes at:

Secretary@aanorthcarolina.org or a51secretarypanel75@gmail.com