

# Area 12 Assembly

## December 02, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

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Hybrid meeting held at the Simpson Center at the Whatcoat Church in Camden. Meeting called to order at 9:32 followed by the Serenity Prayer. The minutes were accepted at 9:34.

### DELEGATES REPORT

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**December 2, 2023**

#### **Delegate Report to the Assembly**

#### **Happenings at the Conference level:**

Please read the latest edition of Box 4-5-9 on aa.org

The trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. held their third quarterly meeting at the Westin New York Hotel at Times Square, New York, NY. with interim Chair Mike L., presiding. The meeting was held the last weekend in October.

- GSO is using a new digital resource platform named “Onboard” and the roll out has been successful
- The General Service Board is delighted to recommend that Scott H., past trustee at large Canada, be added to the slate of officers as chairperson of the General Service Board for disapproval, if any, at the 74th General Service Conference.
- Communications: Secretary Irma V. reported that the Board received eight communications since the last board meeting. Copies of the communications were provided to all Board members. The topics of

the letters included concerns regarding the resignation of our past Board chair; concerns over financial management; addressing revisions of literature as well as requests to cease and desist on a few of those revisions; and unity and trust. Responses to submitters are ready to be distributed at the request of the Board, with thanks for expressing their concerns.

- A.A.W.S.: There was a PAI in 2022 and an Advisory Action in 2006 that both address the use of the words “donations” and “contributions”, but differ in actions. Literature using these terms is coming up for reprint and the AAWS board recommends sending an Agenda item to clarify the current GSC desires/understandings on this topic.
- The AA Grapevine Board has chosen a candidate for the role of non-trustee director.
- The AA Grapevine chair also reported that since the release of the AA Grapevine app on September 1, there have been approximately 17,000 downloads with over 2,300 subscriptions, and currently, the AA Grapevine App sits at number 32 on the Apple Top 200 Newspaper and Magazine App Charts.
- Many requests have been made for the ability to give a gift certificate for the Grapevine App. It’s in the works.
- The chair then welcomed the new Digital Editor, Julia D., whose years of experience will assist in creating a more robust experience for users of the app; and reported that as the Board continues their search for a new Controller, the Board will be utilizing the efforts of the AAGV Treasurer in conjunction with Your Part-Time Controller (YPTC) to review their Finances until such time as a new Controller is found. The chair also noted that AA Grapevine will be extending their traditional offering of free shipping throughout the months of November and December to support the yearly sales of books and cash flow.
- The chair also reported that the AA Grapevine Board discussed PAIs 51, 60, 62, 81, and 90; all of which are related to changing the word “people” to “men and women” in the Preamble. The Board decided to take no action on these proposed items with more details in their written report.

- Reports of Trustees' Committees:
  - Trustees' General Service Conference Committee: Chairperson Carolyn W. presented a written report on behalf of the committee.
  - The chair reported highlights from the committee meeting regarding their review of the 2024 Conference budget and the incorporation of cost savings as suggested in the progress report from the Conference Improvement Subcommittee.
  - The chair also noted that the committee reviewed several proposed agenda items and agreed to forward PAI #10 – a request to revise procedures for electing delegate chairperson and committee chairpersons – to the 2024 General Service Conference.
  - The chair also mentioned updates on the work of the Conference Improvement, Inventory, and Equitable Distribution of Work (EDW) subcommittees including a recent request to the EDW subcommittee from the TAB subcommittee chair regarding ways to accommodate more time at Conference for members to review the Plain Language Big Book during the Conference week. In this effort, the committee has requested the Conference Improvement subcommittee to work with the TAB subcommittee to propose some solutions to that request.
  - The committee has also continued their discussion that began in January 2023 regarding the General Service Conference Banquet with a focus on guiding principles and fiscal responsibility.
  - The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee that the GSB adopt the Inventory plan, questions, and materials.
- The Trustees Finance and Budgetary: The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee to communicate the financial status plan to the Fellowship with the intention to move the discussion of a Reserve Fund withdrawal to January 2024.

- The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' International Conventions/ Regional Forums Committee that Indianapolis, Indiana be the site of the Alcoholics Anonymous 2035 International Convention.
- The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' International Conventions/ Regional Forums Committee that the 2025 International Convention Pre-Registration fee be \$155.00 (USD) per attendee and that the Full Registration fee be \$180.00 (USD) per attendee.
- The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' Nominating Committee that Nikki O. serve as Nontrustee Director on the AA Grapevine Corporate Board following the April 2024 General Service Conference, to succeed Cindy F.
- The PI chair also reported that in November/December, for the first time ever, the Fellowship will have access to the findings from the 2022 AA Membership Survey in print and digitally on aa.org. The chair expressed excitement over the discussion surrounding the study of a convenience sample that was recently launched to compare the survey methodology.
- In regard to the AA Grapevine Forecast, it was then noted by a member of the Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee that during their meeting, concerns were expressed by the Grapevine Publisher over some financial difficulties that Grapevine/LaViña currently faces. The chair of the committee reported that after substantial discussion by the committee regarding the liquidity of the Reserve Fund and options for funding outside of drawing from the fund, and after achieving a group conscience, the committee agreed to **distribute a communication from the GSO General Manager's office to the Fellowship for support and to allow the Fellowship to respond**. The chair also noted that a draw from the reserve in 2024 will be likely, however, it will be a far more informed decision after hearing back from the Fellowship.

This information is a sampling of what was sent to the Delegates after the Board weekend. It was followed by a Virtual Meeting of all 135 Conference members on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Happenings in Area 12:

Visiting and assisting DCMs: District 14, 12, 6/7

Visiting NDIAA monthly meetings and acting as liaison

Committees at the Area level

Convention Committee: storage inventory

## ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT

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Delegates are in conference all year because of the virtual world. 117 motions were made and it is now 27. If you have a passion about a topic and it isn't being addressed by GSO that doesn't mean it won't be addressed.

AREA 12 COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2, 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

AREA TREASURY AS OF NOVEMBER 31, 2023

1. MAILING ADDRESS – PO BOX 89 CHESWOLD 19936 - See & distribute Flyer on website landing page.

- Any return to senders?

- Please, Please Group name and number on checks – many come from personal checking

accounts

2. October contributions: \$975.60.

3. Expenses – total paid out in October were \$12.95.

a. \$12.95 – Website monthly charge.

4. Overall Status:

a. Contributions YTD \$14,317 = 95% of budget.

b. Expenses YTD \$19,073 = 80% of budget.

c. Net income (\$4,756) = 53% of budgeted shortfall.

5. Bottom Line: Line 48 – Funds available in excess of Prudent Reserve \$19,136 which is below our

2023 budget of \$19,412. This number excludes convention reserves.

6. 2024 Budget – Let's get it done; ready for vote as Area Committee went over it in November

7. Budget sheet includes spend plans outlined on each item.

a. Travel budget for officers are included in respective line items.

b. Storage - Currently and historically, it has been charged to archives while a significant

amount of storage is for convention supplies.

- I suggest storage should be a separate line item covered by the assembly.

- If the Convention is charged for even half the storage, it would negatively impact

the seed funding.

- Archives budget for the cost of storage has never, in my tenure, negatively impacted any other funding needed by the archives committee.

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

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12/02/2023 Assembly Attendance stats			
Inperson	Zoom	Total # Attended	Role
7		7	Area 12 Trusted Servants
3	3	6	DCMs
1	1	2	Past Delegates
			Ad Hoc
18	6	24	GSRs
	1	1	CPC Chair
	2	2	Public Information
1	1	2	Intergroup
			Members
30	14	44	<b>Total</b>

## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

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The archives were displayed at District 2's workshop on preserving our history. The workshop was on November 2. A donation of a photograph of Bill W and 2 doctor was received as well as

## CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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The month is November at the Atlantic Sands. The committee went to the Archive storage area and rearranged items. The area will be used for the Archives and the Convention. There is a need for volunteers.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

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The site has been maintained by a trusted servant. They are putting together a committee plan and are in need of volunteers

## DCM REPORTS

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DCM-2 This was a great year. 16-20 GSR's at meetings. District 3 might start up again and take away some from District 2, but it is for the good of the fellowship. 2 workshops and the district is financially stable.

DCM-4 We will be giving scholarships for NERAASA.

DCM-5 Coming out of Covid the district has grown. Will be doing an orientation for new GSR's. Did a workshop presented by GSR's on the Service Manual.

DCM-6/7 Discussed proposed agenda items with GSR's. Had elections and all new service positions were filled. Discussed the spirit of rotation. Had a successful Longtimers meeting. Alcohthons for Christmas and New Years.

DCM-13 Discussed the PAI's at the last district meeting. Workshops in the planning.

DCM-14 Reported meeting twice. The 3 intergroups have been invited to have groups join the district. Question was raised are the virtual groups going to give out their information to the intergroups so they can be supported.

## ELECTION FOR TREASURER

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Description of the position was read. The treasurer reported that the end of year accounting is presented in February, that Quicken is the platform to enter information, the PO Box can be moved near the treasurer, and the treasurer must report to the IRS and the State of Delaware.

Bryan L was the only one to stand, hence only 1 vote was needed and that was cast by the Delegate

## BUDGET

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Question was raised, if something happened to the treasurer is there a backup for his information and the answer was yes, it is sent to the finance committee.



Area storage will replace the Archives budget. \$250 will be placed into the Archives budget. At the committee it was discussed 1) getting a zoom account for the area that district 14 could use and also that other districts could use, 2) send the DCM from district 14 to Neraasa for one time only because the district hasn't had time to amass money to send the DCM. Cost to send members to the Technology Convention is \$1,300 and it was stated that this is a high-cost line item but it is under review. NTAAW is the meeting holder.

Line item 70 is the Area Assembly. This is the cost of the meeting space, and technology for hybrid meetings. To purchase equipment, it would cost about \$4,500. It might be less expensive to use schools that have the video set-up. The budget has enough to cover the upcoming year.

The budget was passed by 27 votes and no opposition.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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Brian G would like to review the bylaws and the motion was seconded. There is some work that has been done by 4 past delegates, however it is out of date because it has to take place within 1 assembly to the next assembly. This motion is telling the area committee to look at it. A vote was taken with 13 in favor but it did not meet the 2/3's majority and was not passed. Brian made a second motion to have the Area do an inventory in September 2024.