

Alcoholics Anonymous Southern Illinois Area 21

June 6, 2021 Assembly Minutes

Area Committee Meeting

The Area Committee Meeting was held on Monday May 24, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom (Meeting ID: 865 8699 2909; Passcode: 519785).

Rosemary T (Area Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with an introduction to the Area Committee Meeting. It was explained that the purpose of this meeting was to propose Agenda Items for New Business for the upcoming Area Assembly. She emphasized that any voting on motions will be regarding the item going under New Business on the Agenda, not voting for or against the motion.

New Business Items

Cheryl M (D14 DCM) made a motion: *Policy to waive the registration fee at in-person assemblies.* Steve S (Area Treasurer) 2nd the motion.

Jodi P (Area Registrar) - wasn't this a past agenda item? Leo (Area Corrections Co-Chair) - who pays rental on the building? Rosemary T (Area Chair) brought up hybrid meetings because in-person would pay while virtual would not. Carl M (Area Archives Chair) agrees with the points already brought up. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) area handbook outlines how to plan an assembly, and it's in the plan for an area assembly to have a registration fee. Do we have historical data on it? Jennifer V (Area Secretary) stated that District 20 hosted an assembly in 2019 where the registration fee was considered a donation and not required. Most people paid the registration, and the District still had money left over to give to Area 21. Will H (D6 DCM) stated that we need to do it, but we need to decide how the future will be. Area assemblies that are in-person for all attendees will have greater costs than a hybrid meeting. Tim C (Area Web Tech Chair) asked if restrictions are lifted, do we want to offer hybrid meetings? Jodi P (Area Registrar) asked if we can put it on the agenda on how we'd like to move forward? Rosemary (Area Chair) stated that District 11 is planning as if the assembly they are hosting, in March 2022, will be in-person. There has been an Ad Hoc Committee created to discuss guidelines for hybrid meetings, so we should keep in mind why we have Area Assemblies. Dick B (Area GV/Lit Chair) stated that all the stuff is in the Area handbook, and if items need changed, then we need to do it there. Cheryl (D14 DCM) stated that she wants to change the policy because GSR's make contributions to Area, but when there is an Area Assembly, they are required to pay a registration fee. Why can't the Area be self-supporting? Leo S (Area Corrections Co-Chair) stated that most DCM's get reimbursed by their District for expenses to Area Assemblies, and GSR's should be paid for by their group. Carl M (Area Archives Chair) called to order. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) asked if we will vote for this at the June Assembly. Rosemary (Area Chair) stated that we should not be continually addressing the same issues over and over again, so maybe we should consider another way to present the topic. It was also shared that an event/conference has a different set of expenses than a meeting does, which is why there are registration fees. Gordon N (Area Delegate) suggested that Cheryl provide detail and summary then open it up as a sharing session to get a sense of how many people would want to come to an in-person assembly as well as feelings on the topic. Cheryl agrees and can prepare something. This will be a sharing session at the June Area Assembly.

Gordon N (Area Delegate) will give a formal report at the Area Assembly, but he wanted to give us some information. The policy and admision recommended an equitable workload distribution of agenda items; therefore, the deadlines to submit an item for the Conference agenda will be September 15th. This is to make sure the staff has time to put stuff together, but it does not mean that we will get the agenda sooner.

Will H (D6 DCM) brought up concerns from his District about bidding on a June 2022 Area Assembly because they do not know if it is in person, online, or hybrid. GSR's in his District want to know the Area's plan because they are will to host for hybrid, or in person, but they need the Area to decide. Rosemary (Area Chair) stated that there is an Ad Hoc Committee working on amendment to guidelines, in the handbook, about this topic.

Will H (D6 DCM) made a motion: *Area 21 consider Area Assembly policy format starting in 2022.*

Cheryl (D14 DCM) 2nd the motion. One person should not make this decision, so it will be brought up by the Area as a whole. Structure and Policy will work on the details once we decide how to proceed. It was unanimously approved to put on the agenda.

There were some discussions by Area committee chairs on what they are doing to meet with District committee chairs. Jodi has begun a list of this information that she can share. When a time/date is decided for meetings, let Tim (Area Web Tech Chair) or Rosemary (Area Chair) know so that it can be on the calendar and zoom is not double booked.

Future Area Committee Meeting

In order to avoid last minute meetings, Rosemary T (Area Chair) asked the body to come up with the next time the Area Committee will meet prior to the next Assembly, which is September 12. Since the Monday prior is a holiday, it was decided that August 30, 2021 at 7 pm will be the next Area Committee Meeting.

Rosemary T (Area Chair) ended the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Area Assembly Meeting

The Area Assembly Meeting was held on Sunday June 6, 2021 at 9 am via Zoom (Meeting ID: 897 8326 4088; Passcode: 419950).

Rosemary T (Area Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:06 am with a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer and Statement of A.A. Unity. Karen (D19 DCM) read the A.A. Preamble, Rob (D19 GSR) read the GSR Preamble, Ed M (Area Alt Chair) read the long form of Tradition 2 and the short form of Concept 1.

Roll Call Area Officers Present:

Chair: Rosemary T, Alt Chair: Ed M, Delegate: Gordon N, Alt Delegate: Tom H, Recording Secretary: Jennifer V, Treasurer: Steve S

Roll Call Committee Chairs Present:

Archives: Carl M, Corrections: Ed H, Grapevine/Literature: Dick B, GSR Workshop: Shari D, Structure & Policy: Ed M, Treatment: Meghan G, Website & Technology: Tim C

Roll Call Past Delegates Present:

Panel 55: Carl M, Panel 61: Fariba M, Panel 63: Becky B, Panel 67: Pat W, Panel 69: Bobby D

Recording Secretary Report - Jennifer V

Jennifer V (Area Secretary) read the old and new business from the March 2021 Area Assembly. Frank (D11 GSR) made a motion to approve the report and Ed M (Area Alt Chair) 2nd the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report - Steve S

Steve S (Area Treasurer) presented the Mar 2021-Jun 2021 Area financial report. The Area started with a balance of \$19,842.63, and there were total expenses of \$626.97 and group contributions of \$5,649.87. With the prudent reserve of \$4041.00, the Area was left with a final balance of \$20,824.53. There was a mistake in the proposed budget, so the prudent reserve has been corrected. The archive storage cost has gone up more than the budgeted amount. Tim C (Area Web Chair) made a motion to approve the report and Shari D (D6 GSR) 2nd the motion. 20 in favor and 1 opposed, so the report is approved. Lizzy M (D14 GSR) opposed the report because she is not comfortable voting to approve an item that she did not have in hand to verify.

Registrar Report - Jodi P

A. Area 21 Data

1. Fellowship Connect Database:

- a. 1151 Groups: 474 Active; 628 Inactive; 0 Pending Active and 17 Unknown (List has been Emailed to DCMs).
- b. 18 Districts (4-20) – Currently no contact information for District 8, but 3 active groups listed.

2. Area Registrar Contact Data:

- a. Area Officers - 7
- b. Past Delegates - 8
- c. Committee Chairs – 9
- d. DCM/Alt DCM -28
- e. GSRs – 259
- f. District Committee Chairs – 68 (some may be chairing 2 committees)

B. Fellowship Connect Database:

1. Area Delegates and DCMs currently have “read only” access to the Fellowship Connect database, which means they can view the data and run reports. They cannot add or subtract data. This allows you to run reports on the meetings and contacts in your District. You can do this and then communicate the changes to me, which I can then make on the Area database and the Fellowship Connect database. You received and email earlier in the year from the GSO with the connection data for the database.

C. Active Group Lists – In March, after the Area Assembly, I ran and sent out reports of the active group listings and contacts in each District to the DCMs for you to make changes. When you have those changes made, you can send them back to me to be made on the Area and Fellowship Connect databases.

D. Changes to Groups

1. Reminder that the group change/new group forms should be sent to me so I can update the Area Contacts and the Fellowship Connect databases. You can also send the information directly to Records GSO (records@aa.org) if you chose, however then it will not be updated in our Area contacts.
2. Important to list the “old” information so those people can be taken out of the system.
3. Important to let me know if groups have disbanded/closed permanently.

E. Correcting Contacts

1. DCMs – Review list and send me any corrections.
2. GSR’s – If not getting the Emails, let me know.
3. Area Webmasters – Send me any changes to your contact information or changes in information for your Districts.
4. District Committee Chairs – I am continuing to compile lists of the current district committee chairs and have sent those out to the Area Committee chairs.

Grateful to have this opportunity to serve SIA21, Jodi P.

Alternate Delegate Report - Tom H

I’m Tom and I’m an Alcoholic. Through the grace of my higher power and the fellowship of this program, I have not had a drink since February of 1991. For that I am truly grateful. That is the most important thing I will say today.

The next most important thing for this assembly is – I am truly honored to serve as this area’s Alternate Delegate, whatever that may entail for Gordon and for others in our area.

I continue to learn what it means to serve as your Alternate and to be ready in case the dreaded emergency occurs and that I need to assume Gordon’s responsibilities.

I have continued to attend a monthly zoom meeting that includes all the Alternate Delegates of the U.S. and Canada. Each month a different region of members chose a topic to present to the bigger group. It was my honor and privilege to be included in our East Central Region’s presentation for this month. Quickly getting to know each other and learning how to work together seemed more important than the actual material we brought forth for presentation. After saying that, I believe our region, with the input from our Delegates, brought forth some amazing insight for what Alternate Delegates need

- To DO
- To BE
- To HAVE
- To READ
- To KNOW

And this included a power point presentation to anyone for the asking.

This last quarter, I also had the privilege to be part of several meetings and the final workshop or our Area’s pre-General Service Conference preparation. This was most gratifying to see the commitment from several in our area, to help Gordon see the group conscious of the area and in making his decisions for items coming up at the Conference. I thought I should be an observer for these meetings, as Gordon often would be. However, I realized I needed to let my voice be heard. If nothing else, to encourage others to do the same. I believe that those of us who participated felt respect for each other and the process, even with our differences. I always learn about the function and structure of our fellowship from these meetings.

I have been and will continue to be open to what my area asks of me.

- I’m learning about the possibilities and benefits of continued virtual meetings as I sit on the Ad-Hoc committee for hybrid assemblies.

- I’ve been sitting in on the meetings to prepare for and approve items for our upcoming Illinois State Conference.

As I reflect on my experience this quarter, I feel a tremendous amount of gratitude for those who are serving our fellowship and carrying the message of AA. I feel a tremendous amount of hope when I see the experience, strength and hope of others who are standing with me to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Tom H

Delegate Report - Gordon N

I am Gordon Neel – Delegate for Southern Illinois Area 21 – Panel 71 – Serving on the CPC Committee.

Where do I begin? Gratitude is the word of the day!! I am so thankful to you – my fellow members of AA for trusting me to represent you at the 2nd ever virtual General Service Conference of Alcoholic Anonymous.

The Conference started on my 27th Anniversary of being sober on April 17th and ended on my 59th birthday only because we went into the night on the 24th and end at 1:15am on the 25th.

Thanks to Bobby for the cushion!! It saved my backside!!

We had a full plate – Facts of 71st GSC - 110 agenda items - 1487 pages of background - 9 days - 69hrs and 45 mins - 47 Committee Recommendations - 89 Committee Considerations - 6 Floor Actions - 49 Advisor Actions

The 71st Conference theme was “AA in a Time of Change.” And boy did it live up to its name.

I have always thought that our door was opened to anyone that suffered with the disease of alcoholism but I realized now that we can do better at opening up our door and this conference may in fact be the start of that.

It was the most amazing experience I have had so far!!

The first day was primarily a Pre-conference day. It started with a Hospitality Session. We got to know each other. Played a game called Kahoot.it. I attend the 1728 meeting. 1728 stands for 12 step X 12 traditions x 12 concepts. I received 3 gold nuggets:

We surrender to Win!

We give it away to keep it!

We die to win!

Next, I attended the Remote Communities session. There were three types on remote communities discussed: Cultural, Geographic and Linguistic. I went into this session thinking they didn't apply to our area. I was surprise to find out they do!! Young People, Seniors, Military, Geographic, Cultural, and Linguistic to name just a few.

There was an Archives Presentation that was given by Michelle M Archivist GSO. Very interesting!! There are already 230 items in the COVID-19 archives and it grows very day.

Note: Ruth Hock was our first Archivist – November 10th 1935.

Our next session was the Delegates Only Meeting. We all got to introduce ourselves!!

Take away – Have your own experience at the conference. Listen Like you have no opinion. Listen like you want them to change your mind.

I discovered that I am connected to so many people around the world. I felt especially connected to Cherri and Carlos.

Cherri is the delegate for Alaska and I live there from 1997 to 2000. I was 3 years sober when I went to Alaska. Carlos is the delegate from Puerto Rico and I spent 3 months there in 1997.

The 71st General Service Conference officially opened on Day 2 with remarks by Michele G Class A Trustee.

Roll call – OMG!! I was told about this special time and it hit me. First tear!! Our observer from India joined us – Krishna V. GSB for India. It was in the middle of the night for him!

My committee (CPC) met for the first time. We discussed the AA LinkedIn page. Second tear when we made a decision to take to the body a consideration to continue to build upon the AA LinkedIn page primarily focusing on reaching our professional community. Amazing!!

Gold Nugget: The difference between me and God? God never tries to be me!!

I had my God moment on day 3!!

Day 3 started early with the Regional Trustees Election Caucus Meeting. We voted which one of the two nominees we would forward on as our ECR Trustee at large US nominee. It took 2 ballots but Mel Weaver was our nominee. My committee (CPC) met for the second time. We covered a lot! All three of the agenda items discussed will go to the body for consideration.

My God moment came during the discussion about the pamphlet “To the Clergy” This pamphlet has lots of changes including changing the title of the pamphlet to “To the Faith Leaders.” I had a real problem with the recommendation of taking out the paragraph about early AAs reading the bible. I struggled with this because my committee was all in favor of taking it out. I took a moment of silence and God spoke to me. I was given what I needed. Our history is written and it is not going to go away because that paragraph is removed. I was overwhelmed with emotions of it. I shared that with the committee. They were also overwhelmed with how I felt.

Leslie Backus – Class A Trustee GSB Treasurer gave a very in-depth presentation “Around the Picnic Table” Finance report. I have the presentation if you are interested.

Day 4 began with our final committee session. We went through the kit. Lots of discussion. Discussed how our chair Jamey would present our voice to the body. We were all in agreement. CPC Committee is amazing. I was so blessed to serve with these 8 other delegates. We all got along very well. I have lifetime friends!! Key to this connection was that we had biweekly zoom meetings getting to know each other prior to the conference.

Trustee Elections. What an amazing experience. Started off with our East Central Regional Trustee elections. We had 6 very qualified nominees. Our very own Paula E. did very well. The election went to 4 ballots and Cathi Clark (A23-Southern Indiana-P64) was elected as ECR Trustee. It was an honor and privilege to introduce our nominee Paula E. SE Regional Trustee election went to the hat and Tom H from A16-Georgia was elected as their trustee. Trustee at Large US – 6 very qualified nominees. Our very own Mel Weaver from A34 did well. Marita Hagen Rhinehart from the Pacific Region was elected. The election went to 3 ballots and she received 2/3 of the votes with 59 votes. She served P49.

Committee Reports and Discussion: OMG!!!

Here are just the highlights and the hot topics – as I see it:

Corrections — That revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms “inmate” and “offender” be replaced with “person in custody.”

Literature — That a fifth edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership

that revisions be made in the essays on Steps Six and Twelve in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the long form of each Tradition be added at the end of each respective chapter

that a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.

Perhaps the hottest topic of the conference:

Floor Action — That the Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble

Remember the theme? AA in a Time of Change.

The 2022 General Service Conference is “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.”

Next GSC – 72nd GSC – April 24-30 at the Brooklyn Bridge Marriott Hotel – God willing!!

I want to invite you all to attend one of the five scheduled zoom calls to get a full report. I will give a detailed report of the conference to include the advisory actions.

If you are a DCM and have not yet scheduled with me for a visit, please contact me either via email or cell phone.

I blessed beyond my own understanding!!

Alternate Chair Report - Ed M

Ed M (Area Alt Chair) stated that he had no report to give.

Chair Report - Rosemary T

No report from Rosemary (Area Chair)

We stopped for a break at 10:11 am and reconvened at 10:20am

Old Business:

Revision of Area 21 Handbook Officer Qualifications: Motion for hybrid option tabled at March 2021 Assembly. Lizzy (D14 GSR) made a motion to take off the table and put it on the floor for discussion and voting. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) 2nd the motion. The motion carries and is back on the floor for discussion.

Lizzy (D14 GSR) still stands with the original vote because it is imperative to flush out the details. Shari D (D6 GSR) stated that she stands with the motion because it is important to include people with qualifications for non-leadership (Treasurer, Recording Secretary, & Registrar) positions at Area. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) clarified that it should include all DCM’s no matter what Area they lived in when they served. A few questions were asked and answered for clarification purposes. Steve S (Area Treasurer) is concerned with not requiring any service experience for the non-leadership (Treasurer, Recording Secretary, & Registrar) officer positions. Sally (D17 DCM) stated that the current language in the handbook was unclear, so this will clear up confusions that were seen at the last Area elections. Tim (Area Web Chair) agreed with the previous comment and Area elections assemblies recognize nominations from the floor. Frank (D11 GSR) wants to be more inclusive because some with many years of sobriety may have the life experiences to serve. Cheryl (D14 DCM) stated that this allows us to be more inclusive because an individual may or may not want to be DCM but may be willing and able to serve as Treasurer, Recording Secretary, or Registrar. Tom (Area Alt Delegate) stated that what is concerning him is there are no statements about how to proceed if no one is qualified and the position needs to be filled. Fariba (P61 Past Delegate) concerned about the language of inclusive versus exclusive because it’s more about service experience. Steve S (Area Treasurer) motion to call to question. Linda Z (D12 DCM) 2nd the call to question. Private Zoom Poll on the call to question: 21 in favor - 8 opposed. The motion to call the question passes.

Private Zoom Poll on the motion: 17 in favor - 11 opposed

Since it requires substantial unanimity, the motion does not pass. Since the prevailing vote is those opposed to the motion, the minority opinions of those voting in favor of the motion may speak.

Frank (D11 GSR) thought this was a good start to becoming more inclusive. Tim (Area Web Chair) stated that this motion answered officer eligibility and was more inclusive than before. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) positions of officers are getting more and more technical. He can visualize someone with sobriety that has not served as DCM to stand for a non-leadership (Treasurer, Recording Secretary, & Registrar) Area officer position. This will allow the body to make the decision based on their service credentials. Will H (D6 DCM) discussed this at length with his District, and they unanimously voted in favor of the motion. People qualified to serve at Area level but may not want to be a DCM, and this would allow us to bring more experience to the Area. Sally (D17 DCM) stated that this motion would clear up the confusion from the last Area elections, and many in the Area wanted the wording to be more clear. Pam (D11 DCM) made a motion to reconsider. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) 2nd the motion. The original motion is now back on the floor for a re-vote. Bobby D (P69 Past Delegate) asked that the group be informed if the vote required substantial unanimity or simple majority prior to voting.

Requires Substantial Unanimity; Private Zoom Poll on the original motion: 22 in favor - 8 opposed. The motion passes. No minority opinions were expressed.

New Business:

Policy on Formats for Area Assemblies beginning in March 2022: Will (D6 DCM) stated that this was brought up at his last District meeting because they wish to host an Area Assembly, but they want to know what type to host: virtual only, hybrid, or in-person only. D6 voted to stay hybrid for the next 2 years. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) convened an Ad Hoc committee meeting, per the Area Chair, to amend Appendix 2 on how districts would host a hybrid Area Assembly. The committee believes that the Area would need to be responsible for the equipment and technology, but the District would be responsible for local requirements. However, does the Area body wish to do hybrid assemblies? The committee also asks the body: What would the Area need to do if the District cannot host a hybrid meeting? Do we rotate Area Assemblies in 2-3 spots with the internet capabilities to host a hybrid meeting? The district's will not know how many people to plan for in-person, how can we help them plan effectively? Do we ask members for a reservation, so the districts know how to plan? Rosemary (Area Chair) stated that any motion on this subject will require substantial unanimity to pass. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) made a motion that Area 21 has a format to include hybrid meetings starting in 2022. Steve S (Area Treasurer) 2nd the motion. Lizzy (D14 GSR) stated that she would like to see some recommendations from the Structure and Policy committee on wording for this. Cheryl (D14 DCM) stated that she would like to take it back to her district before voting. Tom H (Area Alt Chair) stated that he sat in on the Ad Hoc committee meetings that Ed M (Area Alt Chair) led for Structure & Policy, and in order for the committee to come up with wording, they need to know whether the Area wants to do hybrid meetings. Therefore, the Area needs to give the "go ahead" with hybrid meetings for the Structure & Policy committee to come up with any recommendations on a policy. Frank (D11 GSR) stated that D11 is investigating doing a hybrid meeting for the March 2022 assembly, but they were already planning for it to be in-person. Tim (Area Web Chair) stated that he is a part of Ad Hoc committee discussions, and there has been much discussion on how this would work. There are options for doing hybrid meetings, but what does the Assembly body want? Will (D6 DCM) stated that time is against us because we are asking districts to bid for next year's Area Assemblies without knowing how to prepare. What do we want to do in 2022? D6 wants to bid, but it is not as much fun for a District to host a virtual only assembly. Dick B (Area GV/Lit Chair) stated that Zoom is here to stay; change is coming. How can we justify spending 30 cents per mile for people to drive to an Area Assembly when Zoom is a more affordable option for the future? Money is not an issue now, but it could be in the future. Hybrid offers both options to individuals. Gordon N (Area Delegate) read an Agenda item from the 71st General Service Conference (GSC) recognizing online groups. At the GSC, it was voted overwhelmingly (over substantial unanimity) in favor of this. He stated that AA is in a time of change, and there are many areas within the U.S./Canada moving this way. His friendly amendment to the motion is to do this for a 2 year trial period. Steve S (Area Treasurer) stated that we need to move on a decision for this as an Area. He stated that in person can be expensive, so a hybrid Area Assembly is a good option. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) accepts Gordon's friendly amendment. The motion now reads: *For a 2 year trial period starting March 2022, Area 21 to have a format that includes hybrid meetings.* There were no more individuals wishing to discuss. Private Zoom poll: 28 in favor - 2 opposed. The motion passed, and no minority opinion was expressed.

No new motions from the floor.

We stopped for lunch at 11:50 am and reconvened at 12:25

Sharing Session:

Presentation on Area Assembly Registrations fees followed by Sharing Session: Rosemary (Area Chair) presented a few slides with history on registration fees for Area 21 Assemblies. Lizzy M (D14 GSR) thanked the chair for her work to put this together, but she wonders why Area 21 is not self-supporting to pay fees for putting together an Area Assembly. Based on her information, the past 5 years has shown that Area 21 has quite a bit of extra money at the end of the year; therefore, it is not within the realm of possibility for the Area to cover costs incurred during an Assembly. She does not wish to put Area 21 in a bid, but if the money is there, let's use it. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) brought up that Area 21 will be hybrid for at least 2 years starting in 2022, so we would need to ask ourselves if those in person would pay registration fees while those virtual would not. Frank (D11 GSR) agreed with Lizzy's statement. Shari (D6 GSR) stated that she was previously a GSR for a group that could not afford to send her to Area Assemblies, so sometimes the cost falls on the person to attend. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) suggested that we see what other areas are doing in regards to registration fees, particularly hybrid meetings. Ed (Area Corrections Chair) stated that all attendees are required to pay a registration fee for the next Corrections Conference, which is hybrid. Gordon (Area Delegate) stated that his experience at the area level has shown him a lack of GSR participation at Area Assemblies; therefore, we should gauge why this is happening. If it is due to the registration fee, we could try a trial run to see what would happen if we did not do a registration fee. As of now, the Area can afford to do it, so if it will increase participation, it is worth it in his humble opinion. Carl H (D16 DCM) stated that if a small group cannot afford to attend it that his district covers the expenses. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) stated that we should consider how much it could hurt the district to waive the registration fee. The Area should be prepared for the possibility of extra costs if waiving the registration fee, and we will need to consider how a hybrid meeting would work. The Area has been doing Assemblies with no registration fee (on Zoom), and the GSR participation has not increased. Are we making the GSR's feel welcomed? Cheryl M (D14 DCM) stated that with bifurcating the alternate area delegate and chair positions that it is possible for the Area Alt Chair to oversee and work with the hosting district. When District 14 hosted the Dec 2019 assembly, it was not budgeted so that the district ended up coming short even when following the guidelines. How is it fair to travel to an Assembly and be charged to be there? We need to look at it and work it out because it is not fair to ask GSRs for donations and charge them to come to an Area Assembly and participate. Will H (D6 DCM) stated that we should be asking ourselves how this will impact the newcomer. He feels that it is better for them to hear that it doesn't cost anything than to hear I'll cover your cost to attend. The Area should consider being more inclusive. Dick B (Area GV/Lit Chair) stated that the past few Area Assemblies in person ran about \$500-\$600 and they came out in the positive. We do have the money so we should try it out.

GSR Reports:

11 GSR's present (D6-3, D11-3, D12-1, D14-2, D16-1, D17-1)

DCM Reports:

District 6 - Will H (DCM)

Since our last DCM report: Our local Intergroup hosted their Spring Fling Talent show Fundraiser. Our District meetings have switched to hybrid meetings. We are seeing over 30 people in attendance, 15 in person and 15 online. We are traveling around from group to group each month. District 6 reviewed the agenda items for the June Assembly and voted on the items. District 6 voted to be willing to host a hybrid 2022 Area assembly. We are currently working on a digital platform for our finances. Our 12th Step list has been updated and is in circulation. Intergroup has a new newsletter. all information can be found @ aapeoria.org.

We faced these challenges: We are still struggling to get into some of our treatment centers. We are currently looking for help with our CPC committee and our Workshop committee.

We carried the message by: We have been able to get back into a few corrections facilities. we are getting at least one meeting a day into all the treatment centers that are allowing us to come in (in person or online). We have started a CPC committee and have purchased lots of materials to compile and reach out to as many professionals as we can think of. We are planning a CPC workshop open to the professionals.

Current goals for the District are: We have an ad-hoc committee of 8 people working on amending and updated our bylaws for District 6. We are hoping to have this finished by October of 2022. The DCM and Alt, DCM are planning on attending every business meeting of each group over the next year. We are planning on running internet radio ads for AA in our area.

Other things we want to share: Unity and Fellowship just had a picnic. Attendance was good, and it was a great day in the park. its always nice to have unity across the groups in District 6.

District 10 - Becky D (DCM)

The following important things occurred: We combined the PI and CPC chair positions and are still searching for an alternate DCM as well as an events chair. We also scheduled to hear Gordon's report at our next district meeting. We will be meeting on Zoom. The people in our chair positions are reaching out to their counterparts at the Area level.

We faced these challenges: Still trying to fill vacant positions and getting more GSR's to attend.

We carried the message by: We have an active website that consists of a meeting guide listing both in person and zoom meetings.

Current goals of this district are: We continue to strive to make our meetings known and inviting GSR's and others to attend. We are working to improve communication and keep the District Website current.

District 14 - Cheryl M (DCM)

The following important things occurred: 1. The Alt DCM ran the April Business meeting and it went well. We voted not to have a May meeting.

2. We have sent 2 different distributions to GSO.

3. We have changed storage facilities, cutting our cut almost in half.

We faced these challenges: 1. The Corrections Chair has not been attending district meetings and I am not sure if he's working with SWICC. I have reached out and he will hopefully be at our next business meeting.

2. I still need to fill a couple of committee chairs.

We carried the message by: 1. Both treatment centers have re-opened to in person meetings.

Current goals of this district are: 1. We are going to update our bridging the gap list.

2. We are going to discuss when and where we want to meet in person.

Other things we want to share: 1. Due to the facility; The Kings House Meeting/Group has closed in-person meetings permanently. I believe they are still meeting online.

2. Gordon will be sharing his ES&H on the 2021 General Service Conference at our June meeting.

District 17 - Sally P. Mc. (DCM)

We did not meet in May, so no report at this time.

District 18 - Robert S (DCM)

The following important things occurred: Meeting formats are gradually returning to Face-to-Face or Hybrids. Of 84 meetings in D18 every week, 75% are face to face, 18% hybrid and 7% Zoom only. Almost everyone meeting in some form. Still a lot of meetings attendees on Zoom with older/ compromised members. New meetings starting in Granite City are doing well. We also have our first permanent Zoom only meeting.

Our website committee remains active. Our newsletter is first rate and published monthly with articles and District 18 news. Additional workshop coming this summer. We recently had all of our committee chair positions filled, but with a new resignation we have several still open.

Our new officers and they are doing great.

There is a fresh Spirit at our meetings as the membership returns to a normal cadence of meeting attendance.

We faced these challenges: Attendance is improving at District Meetings but needs to get better. Our meetings are completing the necessary business activities but we still need that spark to get some of the traditional committees more active.

We carried the message by: Having a strong web site. Exploring hybrid meetings. Getting beyond the technology and into the message. Workshops.

Current goals of this district are: Increasing participation. Strengthening our treatment and corrections committees. Keep 7th Tradition contributions going. Visiting all of the meetings in the District and encouraging participation.

Other things we want to share: There is still a facet of the membership that is hesitant to participate in meetings that include an on-line aspect. This is perhaps slightly in conflict with many members who can see the advantage of Zoom type meetings especially in Service work. I believe and it is my observation that as a fellowship we will be utilizing some type of electronic platform at times from now on.

District 20 - Ron J (DCM)

The following important things occurred: 1. District 20 GSR Committee met virtually in March and April. There was no meeting in May

Attendance at each meeting was three, representing three of the 19 groups in the district.

2. Activity

* A link to Paypal has been added to the district website to facilitate 7th tradition contributions

3. Two new groups have been formed but are evaluating participation prior to registering with the GSO.

4. 11 of 19 groups have either totally or partially restarted in-person meetings.

We faced these challenges: Group participation in the district committee and AA as-a-whole is still low.

We carried the message by: * Our website, aad20.org

* Utilizing the Meeting Guide application and keeping it current

* Having meeting information listed in local newspapers

Current goals of this district are: *Improve group participation in district GSR Committee.

Recognition of AA birthdays since March 7, 2021

Allen Jun 5, 1 year; Julie Jun 6, 1 year 3 month; Linda May 12, 19 years; Gordon Apr 17, 27 years; Ellen Mar 14, 7 years; Fariba May 8, 30 years; Carl H May 19, 8 years; Karen Mar 18, 36 years = 129 years 3 months total

Committee Chair Reports:

Archives - Carl M (Chair)

At the meeting: Repaired three Big Books. Retrieved information from Area 21 Archives for Area Chairperson.

Grapevine (GV)/Literature (Lit) - Dick B (Chair)

At the meeting: We did not have a meeting this quarter although I did talk to Rosemary and agreed to temporarily merge the Literature Committee with GV until a Literature Chair is appointed.

Upcoming Events/Workshops or Conferences to announce: I will be hosting a GV/Literature committee meeting on June 30,2021 on zoom. I will pass along the link ASAP to our list of GV/Lit Chairs for our districts that we have as well as DCM's.

Our next meeting will be: 6/30/2021

GSR Workshop - Shari D (Chair)

At the meeting: Two GSR Workshop Trainings were held on 1/23/21 and 2/17/21 through zoom. Both were well attended with

over 25 attendees each time, including area 21 officers, Rosemary T. and attendees from Area 20 as well. The informative panel included past GSR Workshop Chair, Steve S., DCM Will H. for District 6, and Nina T., GSR for Pioneer in District 6. The PowerPoint presentation was made available to a number of attendees who requested a copy. Very successful training events!

Upcoming Events/Workshops or Conferences to announce: More trainings will be held as announced. The GSR Workshop Committee will update the training PowerPoint

to include more information on how GSRs may approach getting a group conscience on GS Conference items to be delivered at committee level and inform our delegate's conscience as he represents Area 21 at the annual conference.

Our next meeting will be: TBD

Public Information (PI)/Cooperation with Profession Community (CPC) - Ron J (Chair)

The meeting was held on April 17, 2021 on Zoom (ID: 841 8344 8574, P/W: 000120) with 10 attendees.

At the meeting: Attendees for duration of meeting was ten, eight districts were represented. Of the district committee chairs present,3 were PI chairs, 1 was a CPC chair and 4 were combined PI/CPC committee chairs. Also in attendance was one DCM and one observer. The meeting was in session for ~90 minutes.

District representatives shared current PI//CPC activities.

Discussions were focused on PSAs, help lines and methods to increase membership participation.

Upcoming Events/Workshops or Conferences to announce: Committee members agreed to meet quarterly basis to align with the area assemblies. These meeting will be scheduled for 2:30 PM on the 3rd Saturday of the month proceeding the area assembly.

Our next meeting will be: 9/18/2021

Treatment - Meghan G (Chair)

I am the new Treatment Chair; I just wanted to introduce myself and offer my help to the districts.

Bids of Future Assemblies and Area Events

1. June 2022 Assembly (date: Sunday June 5): Will H (D6 DCM) made a motion for District 6 to host a hybrid assembly. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reports on Future Area Events

1. 2021 Illinois State Conference via Zoom (Saturday August 27-28): Dick B (Area GV/Lit Chair) said there is a good program winding up, new East Central Regional Trustee will be attending, great lineup of speakers, and a GSO staff

member prestation. Information and flyers will be sent out, including the entertainment flyers. The technology committee is looking for support: moderators and readers. If interested, contact Tim C (Area Web Tech Chair), Dick B (Area GV/Lit Chair), or attend the committee meetings. The next one is tomorrow, June 7, and every other Monday.

2. 2022 March Assembly (date March 6, 2022): Frank (D11 GSR), in the DCM's absence, stated that District 11 is working with a facility, and they should have more details ready by the September Assembly.

Frank B (D11 GSR) made a Motion to Adjourn at 1:58 pm. Linda (D12 DCM) 2nd the motion. It was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting until next time.