

Alcoholics Anonymous Southern Illinois Area 21

September 12, 2021 Assembly Minutes

Area Committee Meeting

The Area Committee Meeting was held on Monday August 30, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom (Meeting ID: 811 1211 3227; Passcode: 368284).

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

Rosemary has one item from How it Works group in District 14, and the background material has been sent out to the fellowship already.

Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) discussed needing to buy items for hybrid assemblies with the budget in December. Will H (D6 DCM) stated that we don't usually solve items like this in one assembly, so the sooner it is on the agenda the better. The Ad Hoc committee needs to be prepared and have specs for what will be needed. Cheryl (D14 DCM) stated that she would suggest that the Ad Hoc committee report on what is needed. The body voted last assembly to do hybrid assemblies, but we would like to know what has been done. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) did a trial run, and it did not work. There was a defective interface, which cost around \$95. Interface is used to connect the Area's current equipment to the computer, sound system, and projector. They were thinking 2 cameras (not sure of cost) would be needed; one camera to point towards the officers and another to face the audience. There will be one part of the room not on camera. A computer may need to be purchased, and a hot spot may need to be purchased if the Area Assembly is at a location with no WiFi/Internet. Tim H (Area Alt Delegate) rough estimate of 2 cameras, 2 tripods, interface, computer, and a hotspot. Will H (D6 DCM) shared experience, strength, hope from his home group and district to not forget the cables because they can add up. With some research, the Area may be able to keep it under \$2000. Gordon N (Area Delegate) recommends that the Ad Hoc committee put this into a report (with diagrams) to show in September and finalize in December so that it can be purchased by March 2022. Rosemary (Area Chair) stated that the Ad Hoc committee knows what to do and will get it started.

Any report/flyer to share at the September Assembly, please send to Tim or Rosemary by September 10th.

Gordon N (Area Delegate) asked if the Area can do better at sending out reports prior to the Assembly. Will H (D6 DCM) suggested sending reminders closer to the Committee meetings.

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 December 5. In case a report is needed for the Area Assembly, it was decided that November 22, 2021 at 7 pm will be the next Area Committee Meeting.

Rosemary T (Area Chair) ended the meeting at 7:46 pm with Serenity Prayer.

Area Assembly Meeting

The Area Assembly Meeting was held on Sunday September 12, 2021 at 9 am via Zoom (Meeting ID: 889 8949 4288; Passcode: 177777).

Rosemary T (Area Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:00 am with a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer and Statement of A.A. Unity. Tina D (D5 DCM) read the A.A. Preamble, Dennis (D14 GSR) read the GSR Preamble, Ed M (Area Alt Chair) read the long form of Tradition 2 and the short form of Concept 2.

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, CPC/PI: Ron J, Grapevine: Dick B, GSR Workshop: Shari D, Literature: Lynne D, Structure & Policy: Ed M, Treatment: Megan G, Website & Technology: Tim C

Roll Call Past Delegates Present:

Panel 53: Mike F, Panel 55: Carl M, 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 June 2021 Area Assembly. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) made a motion to approve the report and Linda Z (D12 DCM) 2nd the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report - Steve S

Steve S (Area Treasurer) presented the corrected budget. Pat W (P67 Past Delegate) made a motion to accept the correction. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) 2nd the motion. 19 voted in favor - 2 voted against. The motion passes.

Steve S (Area Treasurer) presented the Jun 2021-Aug 2021 Area financial report. The Area started with a balance of \$24,865.53, and there were total expenses of \$653.12 and group contributions of \$8,921.21. Including the prudent reserve of \$4041.00, the Area was left with a final balance of \$33,133.62. YTD the expenses are under budget except the archive storage cost increased \$150 from last year. Cheryl M (D14 DCM) asked if Steve (Area Treasurer) is now receiving bank statements so that the Area does not need to pay for them again, and it was answered with 'yes'. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) stated that since it was unexpected to be able to travel in 2021 he is over budget travelling with, or in place of, Gordon (Area Delegate). Gordon stated that he has \$800 left in his budget that he won't spend, so after the report is approved, he will make a motion to move some money from the Delegate budget to the Alt Delegate budget.

Simple Majority required to approve. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) made a motion to approve the report and Lynne D (Area Lit Chair) 2nd the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

Gordon made a motion: For 2021, Area will transfer \$200 from the delegate budget to the alternate delegate budget.

Lizzy M (D14 GSR) 2nd the motion. Cheryl M (D14 DCM) asked if \$200 will be sufficient, and Tom answered that he thinks so. The motion was unanimously approved.

Registrar Report - Jodi P

A. Area 21 Data

1. Fellowship Connect Database:

a. 1154 Groups: 464 Active; 640 Inactive; 0 Pending Active and 18 Unknown (List has been Emailed to DCMs).

b. 18 Districts (4-20) – No contact information for District 8, but 3 active groups.

2. Area Registrar Contact Data:

a. Area Officers - 7

b. Past Delegates - 11

c. Committee Chairs – 10

d. DCM/Alt DCM -28 (4 not listed in GSO as I do not have their addresses).

e. GSRs – 256

f. District Committee Chairs – 74 (some may be chairing 2 committees)

g. People without a role in Area contacts -25

B. Fellowship Connect Database:

1. Area Delegates and DCMs currently have “read only” access to the Fellowship Connect database, so can view the data and run reports. They cannot add or subtract data. 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 an Email earlier in the year from the GSO with the instructions on using 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. To put committee chairs into the GSO database, I need their addresses.

Grateful to have this opportunity to serve SIA 21, Jodi Pelegrin, Registrar

Alternate Delegate Report - Tom H

I'm Tom and I'm an Alcoholic. Through the grace of my higher power and the fellowship of AA, I am truly grateful to have another day of sobriety.

I believe I share some views of other officers or our area in seeing this quarter as a busy time for service responsibilities. I am thankful that my health, my family circumstances and situations in general have allowed me to contribute in whatever way I can to respond to calls for help in carrying our message; so that others can do 12 step work.

It has been a privilege to accompany Gordon to his GSC reports for Districts 16, 15, and 18. And with great humility, to represent for Gordon, his GSC report to District 13. These experiences have increased my appreciation for his diligent service to our area. It has also given me the opportunity to get to know him more; and to recognize how he sincerely considers all views of our fellowship, whether he personally believes in them or not. Thank you Gordon for your great care in serving as our Delegate.

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.

This month's topics included some shares of the roles of Alternates and how elections are being done in different Areas. I had the privilege to sit in on the Illinois State Conference preparation meetings, then to participate in some parts of the conference. I would say that I was primarily a witness to this preparation and maybe a cheerleader. I hope you were able to participate in the conference. I knew all the hard work that went into it's planning, so I wasn't surprised when it came off so well. I've heard others who attended the conference state compliments for how well done it was.

Since our last Assembly, I've continued to meet with our Ad Hoc Committee for developing a plan for hybrid assembly's. In this process I have been reminded that our area manual has identified one responsibility of Alternate Delegate as one to help set up the area sound system for the assembly. So in this quarter, I have assumed that responsibility by learning to create a hybrid sound system for our assemblies. Others in the committee who witnessed this "learning" know that it is not coming easy, but that we are making progress!

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 Hensold

Delegate Report - Gordon N

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

Since we last meet in June, I have been fairly busy visiting districts. Whether that be in person or virtual, I find you all doing well and it is an honor to serve as your Delegate.

I had opportunity to give 5 – fairly identical full reports via zoom to those interested in knowing the outcome of the 71st General Service Conference. I appreciate those that attended.

I have attended what is referred to as the virtual breakfast with our newly elected East Central Regional Trustee Cathi C. She reports back to us Delegates what she has been up to and allows us to share our thoughts and concerns. I truly appreciate being part of this zoom call.

We meet today just prior to our Assembly. Discussed how our groups are doing since the pandemic. I have a request from all of you DCMs and GSRs: How are you doing? Is your group meeting? Virtual, Hybrid, in person? DCMs: how many groups are no longer meeting? Perhaps this can be part of your report to the assembly.

My committee (CPC) continues to meet monthly. We are mainly just staying in touch with each other. We anxiously wait to welcome our Panel 72s that will join us in January 2022. There will be 4 of them.

I huge shout out to all those who made the 2021 Illinois State Conference a huge success. I truly enjoyed being part of that special event. O and by the way, the Delegates Jeopardy fulfilled its mission in stumping the Delegates!!

I will be visiting District 6 on the 19th of September and I have 3 visits schedule in October. I am thankful for our Alternate Delegate Tom for his willingness to not only attend those with me and but give the report when I am not available. A huge "Thanks" to him for hanging with me.

The East Central Regional Forum is coming up November 19-21. Please plan to attend. This year's event is virtual and is free. You can register next month on AA.org.

Many Delegates received a suspicious email in the last couple of days from someone asking to talk about the GSC process and about our roles as delegates--and asking for our phone numbers so that we could talk. When I received it, it raised some red flags. I found out that this person does not live in our Area and has been emailing many other delegates asking the same questions. Regardless of what is happening in this specific instance, this situation made me realize how vulnerable A.A. is. Remember to be careful about trusting emails that come through your "trusted servant" email. Many of us have access to Fellowship Connection and a ton of data that some folks would probably love to get their hands on. Let's stay mindful. Better safe than sorry. When in doubt, do not respond and check in with others.

I was recently asked by a member in our area about the status of recognizing "Online Groups." I wanted to pass along information that our ECR Trustee Cathi provided:

Here is the first item:

"The U.S. Canada Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."

A working group has been set up. The Group Services Staff will work with GSO management and appropriate departments to implement the Advisory Action. (notes from background for the July/August Board Meetings). Also, we heard a verbal report that Group Services continues to meet monthly with the Online Intergroup of AA. A registration form for online groups is being worked on.

Here is the second item:

"The General Service Board form a committee to explore possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure." The GSB chair has appointed a committee to address this Advisory Action. I have not heard anything about when either Advisory Action will be fully implemented, but expect that we will receive progress reports at the next Board Weekend.

This member requested information on how their online group would submit an agenda item to the 72nd GSC. I was able to provide this member with the information and they plan to submit by the deadline of 15 September.

Last but not least, the East Central GSO Virtual Regional Forum is scheduled for November 19-21st, 2021.

The East Central Regional Forum is coming up November 19-21.

Regional Forums are hosted by the A.A. General Service Board and "open" to all A.A. members or to anyone interested in A.A.

Regional Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation between A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine. The East Central Regional Forum offers a virtual meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic. This Forum provides unique opportunities for A.A. members throughout the East Central Region to share their experience, strength, and hope.

Over the weekend your Regional Trustee Cathi C. will moderate the event.

You will also hear from:

General Service Office General Manager.

General Service Board Trustees (including your GSB Chair and Treasurer).

AA Grapevine, Inc. Publisher and Staff. 4 A.A. World Services, Inc. Director

G.S.O. Staff

Your Region's Delegates — presentations and workshops

Past Trustees Sharing Session on Sunday morning

Several sharing sessions will allow you to comment and ask questions of the Board and Staff.

A sample program is posted on www.aa.org under the Regional Forums tab.

Registration is free. That's right — FREE!

Registration opens: October 25, 2021

Registration will be available the same day as the event.

You can register online at www.aa.org. Starting October 25, 2021, click on the "Regional Forums Information" on the main webpage, scroll down to the Schedule, and click on the "Registration is open" link. All registration information is confidential and will not be used for anything except communicating about the event and sending the digital Final Report. In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Delegate to the General Service Conference. I can be reach either by email, text, or phone call.

In loving service, Gordon Neel

Alternate Chair Report - Ed M

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

Chair Report - Rosemary T

Since the last Assembly, I have held monthly meetings on Zoom with DCMs and alternates. These replace the DCM meetings during in person assemblies. I have had the opportunity to be a part of AA service by participating in the bi weekly meetings of the ISC Planning Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Assemblies. I had never been part of a conference planning process neither Zoom nor in person, so I learned what really goes into this and have put together some notes that might be helpful for my successor as chair. Leo will give a report on the conference later today, but I want to thank the chairs and subcommittee chairs for the conference: Leo S., Dick B. Tim C. Will H. and Tom H our Alternate Delegate who participated in the planning.

On July 18, I attended the Area 34 (Central Michigan) Area Assembly via Zoom. It was a great opportunity to experience a hybrid assembly and importantly, one held by an area in its size and population density is similar to Area 21. The Area 34 Chair and Website and Technology Committee Chairs were very kind, afterwards answered questions about their equipment and setup. This information I reported to the Ad Hoc Committee on Assemblies, whose report you will hear later today.

On August 27-28, I attended the ISC on Zoom. One thing that struck me was something said by the Friday evening speaker, Paula P. In speaking of her own journey in AA she shared that she had learned "when I listen to the call to arms, I cannot hear the call to service." In other words, when one's efforts are focused on "setting things right" in AA, one cannot be available to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic.

Saturday's lunchtime AA Jeopardy with past and present Area delegates was absolutely amazing. The Family Afterward (a group of young people: Kate L. Will H. Kris F (Dist. 13) and Michael (from CA) spent a lot of time and effort, doing research, consulting archivists to formulate the questions that stumped the delegates, and did a lot of dry runs. The result was a fun, entertaining and educational experience and I hope that perhaps it can be repeated at a future conference.

In the afternoon, I participated in a panel with my fellow Area chairs on how service has been inextricable from personal recovery.

The Virtual Hybrid, Live Oh My panel following that shared the experience of our three areas with using Zoom and virtual technologies. At first by this was by necessity, but now we are all planning for using those technologically strategically to make AA recovery, unity and service more accessible than it has been in the past Area Service Committee work in this time of change was the topic of the following panel and the overall message was that committee work entails being responsive to conditions in your service area. COVID has made this more obvious. Being flexible in your methods and persistent in the service action is the message I got from listening to the experience of the three panelists.

I want to close with a passage from page 63 of the book that has been particularly relevant for me in the past few months participating in service committees for the Area, my district and my home group.

We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to him and performed his work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs.

More and more we became interested in what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, we enjoyed peace of mind, we discovered we could face life successfully, we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn.”

Not everything in the past three months has gone according to “plan,” as the Ad Hoc Committee and ISC Planning Committee members know. But working together with my fellows for a common purpose ensured a result that was better, because it was directed by a Higher Power, not one individual’s idea.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Area Chair.

We stopped for a break at 10:25 am and reconvened at 10:35am

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Lizzy M (D14 GSR) presented the background from the How it Works group. Correction: Slide 3, titled “Area Research”, the first question (second bullet point) should say area not district. She made a motion to *update the Area 21 Handbook to say the following for an interim of 3 years, which was later changed to 2 years when a friendly amendment (*) was accepted:*

Page 18 of 27: 1. Area Assemblies – Trusted Servants, as noted above, are entitled to file for reimbursements of round-trip mileage at \$.30 per mile.

Page 19 of 27, 8.3 Timing (last paragraph): The cost of the Assembly is borne on Area 21 in order to meet the purpose defined of an Area Assembly in section 8.1. If available operating funds (after prudent reserve) at the December Area Assembly are more than \$5,000, the area will budget \$500 to each hosting district and registration fees will not be charged. If Area is not financially solvent and has less than \$5,000, the cost of the Assembly is borne by the individuals paying to include Trusted Servants.

Will H (D6 DCM) 2nd the motion. Frank (D11 GSR) has no concern with the motion, but we should think about how the groups affect it. Dennis (D14 GSR) had discussed this with some individuals, but his group did not have a group conscience about it. He has no input from his group at this time, but he would like time to take it to his group. He made a motion to table the item. There was no 2nd, so discussion on the motion continues. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) appreciates the work put into this motion and working to address participation at the Area level. However, it seems to him that the primary focus of the motion is to get better attendance, and it disturbs him that \$5 is keeping people from Assemblies since we haven’t required registration costs in about 1 year. It is also hard to compare our Area to others. As a past treasurer, there are concerns, but he will keep an open mind. Leo (Area Co-Corrections Chair) stated that we’ve been virtual with no fees, and we have less attendees. He has concerns that no registration fee will not increase attendance. We can spread this money to the committees. Will H (D6 DCM) stated that AA is in a time of change, and we can’t screw up AA in just a few years. It is not fair to ask in-person attendees to pay but not virtual attendees. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) echoed the same sentiment about in-person attendees paying while virtual attendees would not. He suggested that we should consider this motion for at least as long as we have hybrid assemblies. Steve S (Area Treasurer) stated that this \$5 registration fee is due to this being a service function, and we have fees to pay. Purpose of a registration fee is to pay the fees for the function. Shari D (Area GSR Workshop Chair) thanked the members that put together this research. As an Alt DCM, she is not reimbursed unless the DCM is unable to attend. This may be a burden to a person that wants to serve. Tim (Area Website & Technology Committee Chair) likes the idea. It would be nice to see if it works. Friendly amendment to change it from 3 years to 2 years (*). That should be sufficient to see if it works and match the decision for hybrid assemblies. *The friendly amendment was accepted (*)*. Gordon N (Area Delegate) reminded the body that as trusted servants, you have the right of decision and participation. When we come to an Assembly to vote on items, we don’t always need to take it back to our districts/groups. He likes the amendment of 2 years, and he would like to see the Area try something different to change. Clarification discussion about if the motion includes the prudent reserve or only available operating funds. This would be starting in 2022 to align with the hybrid assemblies and due to the rest of 2021 being virtual only. This motion will require substantial unanimity (at least 2/3 majority).

Private Zoom Poll: 83% in favor - 17% opposed. The motion passed, and no minority opinion was expressed.

No new motions from the floor.

2019 Area Inventory Review of Question 6 & Responses:

Question 6 and the responses were screen shared. Will H (D6 DCM) pointed out that this is from 2019, and the Area Assembly has stepped up since this inventory. Thank you to all. Lynne (Area Lit Chair) did not realize it was from 2019 at first, so she was going to recommend that the Area work to meet the specific need of response D. Dick (Area GV Chair) stated that when he was Lit Chair (the past rotation) the committee worked with several districts to meet the need of literature. Pat W (Past Delegate P67) stated that when he moved down here, Area 20 was moving away from the budget process. They did this because finances were well, and he offered to get Area 21 in contact with Area 20 to learn about this process in the future (not 2022). Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) stated he loved item F, and he appreciates the responses he gets from others. Item P was also a great response. He did not see any responses about the pre-GSC (General Service Conference), but this has been great for the delegates. Maybe respondents were not aware of the process. Bobby (Past Delegate P69) agrees with initial comments from D6 DCM. A lot of things have happened since the inventory. The Area is doing a better job than we were. We've shown some improvements, but we can do more. He's excited for the changes made here today in a different direction.

GSR Reports:

12 GSR's present (D6-2, D10-1, D11-2, D12-1, D14-2, D17-2, D19-2)

Group Name: **How it Works**

GSR Name: Lizzy M

District: 14

Since our last GSR report: We continue to grow in attendance and home group members.

We faced these challenges: Home group members have different outside beliefs regarding COVID 19 and the mandate. An emergency group conscience spoke and chairs would be placed 6 feet apart with individuals wearing their masks into the meeting and then removing once in seat.

We carried the message by: Continuing to reach out to newcomers and new attendees to welcome them.

Current goals for the Group are: To answer questions and mentor newer home group members in the service structure.

Other things we want to share: We completed putting together our Group Archive folder for group information, district, and area.

Group Name: **Here's How Carbondale**

GSR Name: Ellen J

District: 17

We carried the message by: We are holding 10 meetings a week, mixture of hybrid and online meetings.

We faced these challenges: In person meeting are down with Delta surge. We are wearing our masks. Problems with Treasurer making our district and area contributions but hoping to straighten that out.

Other things we want to share: HOW held their 40th Anniversary Fish Fry. Good turn out. Excellent time.

DCM Reports:

District 5 - Tina D (DCM)

Since our last DCM report: District 5 has added a Literature Chairperson who is trying to get our district aligned with the recommendations of GSO. In the past, we would order book through other districts to "get a discount" and we see that is not the best solution. We need to get our meeting groups together on ordering through district instead of other individuals or districts. Part of this is because we live across the river from Missouri and before Quincy had it's own "AA Club", our members went to the Serenity Club in Palmyra, Missouri. Quincy did not get it's own Serenity Club until the flood of 1993 when our members could not cross the river for over 7 months!

We faced these challenges: Our constant challenge is to have unity in District 5. Unity at the district level and unity with our meetings in Quincy & Mt. Sterling & Pittsfield. There seems to be a misunderstanding of what District's function is & when we try to align ourselves with Area 21 & GSO, our members rebel. There is a lot of "fear of change" in the way AA has "always been done" in this district. Most members believe we should handle "activities" and raise our own money. Very few meetings actually contribute to District, Area, and GSO. Out of 22 registered AA Meetings, only 8 contribute funds to District 5.

We carried the message by: Even though Covid-19 restrictions & fear make it more difficult, District 5 still has its monthly meeting. Our attendance is low, usually 5 or 6 members attend. But we go to a lot of meetings and continue to share our information with our members. We are having a BBQ today & have a speaker coming in from St. Louis. We will have a large literature display at our BBQ in the hopes it will help others understand what we are here to offer them. We try to stay positive and stress our Traditions need to be followed if we want AA to stay healthy & spiritual & available for generations to come.

District 6 - Will H (DCM)

Since our last DCM report: Unity & Fellowship had a picnic. District 6 started a sub committee to review and update the by-laws. we are getting chair people back in to our treatment meetings. we stuffed around 400 envelopes for CPC and sent them out to the professionals. Phase two is coming soon. We ran radio adds for AA on Spotify in our local area. District 6 is now set up with an online payment method for groups to donate. We had 3 new GSR's to our July meeting. We started a Ad Hoc committee for the June 2022 hybrid area Assembly. Our local Intergroup is on fire. they have created an answer sheet for our 24 hour hotline.

We faced these challenges: Our corrections committee is down, we are trying to find some new people to help out. We are working on getting all of our group and GSR's up to date. Bridging the gap is down. Looking for help with that. Need help with chairing treatment meetings.

We carried the message by: We are reaching out to all the groups we can see if we can help with anything. working with helping an online group registered. We are reaching out to our neighboring districts to build a stronger bond.

Current goals for the District are: We are looking at purchasing a hotspot for all of our District meetings. We are looking at hosting a CPC workshop. we are setting up a local PI booth at Morton Pumpkin Festival.

Other things we want to share: Unity & Fellowship is having a trivia night in October. a few of our local groups have events coming up. check out aapeoria.org for more information. Gordn N. will be at our district meeting in September.

District 10 - Becky D (DCM)

The following important things occurred: We had a person stand for our events chair position. This is a position that our District created to put on events that will help us to carry the message. They were voted into that position and we are hopeful that things will get up and running in that area. We also have had lengthy discussions over our finances and how to deal with the excess money in our account at this time.

We faced these challenges: Our biggest challenge right now is our finances and how to best deal with the overage from our prudent reserve.

We carried the message by: Keeping our website up to date and completed the publication of our most current Where & When.

Current goals of this district are: Attempt to rectify our current treasury overage. Start hosting events now that we have an events chair.

District 12 - Linda Z (DCM)

The following important things occurred: Our PI/CPC committee chair got coverage of general information about AA and our upcoming October Soberfest on several radio stations and in several newspapers. We updated our HOTLINE Answering Service process to better serve those calling in and the committee chair did an update of our volunteer list. Our temporary Meeting List committee chair created a special in-person meeting list for our district.

We faced these challenges: Had an issue come up with the process for our HOTLINE Answering Service, which the committee chair and I took care of. Need a Meeting List Committee chair...we had a temporary person in this position, but she left in August.

We carried the message by: Having an extremely comprehensive website, which is kept current in all areas by our dedicated chair of this committee. This is particularly important with the meeting schedule on our website because so many meetings are going through changes due to Covid. By making a few adjustments to our HOTLINE Answering Service process we can better provide for those calling in need of assistance. Our temporary Meeting List committee chair created a special in-person meeting list for our district.

Current goals of this district are: Continue to keep our website up to date. Continue communicating through numerous ways when our District meetings are held to get as many GSR's as possible to attend.

Other things we want to share: The 31st annual Champaign-Urbana Soberfest will be held on October 2, 2021.

District 14 - Cheryl M (DCM)

The following important things occurred: 1. Erin A. has agreed to be District 14's PI/CPC Committee Chair.

2. Dan G. has agreed to be our Corrections Co-Chair with the plan to rotate in as Committee Chair in 2023. He will be attending the Corrections conference virtually and our committee chair will be attending in person.

3. I combined Technology, Where and When, and the "Booze News" into one committee. Jason H. has been working with Rob C., our Committee Chair, to revamp our where and when's, so that they are the most up-to-date, and we as a

district can print them as needed from our website. Previously we used a printer/publisher to print semi-annual printings with only an annual update.

4. Our Corrections Chair has now been attending District meetings regularly and is working with Corrections to get our A.A. members registered/certified to go back into the facility.

5. We started to meet in person, however with the new mask mandate, I'm not sure if we will do so for our October meeting.

We faced these challenges: 1. A couple of groups are not on board with the new where and when ideas.

2. Covid-19 and the new mask mandate.

We carried the message by: 1. Caitlin, our Alt. DCM created a contact list for everyone in the District and that has been distributed. It will be updated as needed and sent out accordingly.

2. Treatment center meetings are going strong and A.A. exit packets are given to the appropriate patients as they graduate from treatment.

3. Our Bridging the Gap contact list has been updated.

Current goals of this district are: 1. At our District meeting in October, we will be discussing whether it's feasible to put on a 9 day alcahthon over the holidays. Can it be spiritually, safely, and fiscally sound?

2. To continue growing our committees.

District 18 - Robert S (DCM)

The following important things occurred: Meeting formats have generally stabilized. Of 99 meetings in D18 every week, 86% are face to face, 12% hybrid and 2% 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. Our website committee remains active. Our newsletter is first rate and published monthly with articles and District 18 news. Additional workshop coming in October on Service Work. We recently had all of our committee chair positions filled, but with a new resignation we have one still open. Our officers are active and they are doing great. Attendance at our District meetings is improving. Gordon N. made a great presentation at our August meeting. We are having a District Picnic September 24th. We will have speakers to help emphasize this as an AA event. There is a strong Spirit at our meetings as the membership has returned 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. Getting new members to get involved in service work remains a challenge.

We carried the message by: Having a strong web site. Our CPC chairperson is doing a great job getting the message to doctors and hospitals. New workshops are forthcoming. We have a good monthly newsletter that is interesting newsletter that is also encouraging participation in D18 activity.

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. We still face some challenges with face mask compliance.

District 19 - Karen D (DCM)

The following important things occurred: We remain meeting each third Thursday of month in a Zoom format. Area 21 Delegate, Gordon Neel, reported the results of the GSC that he participated in at the August Zoom Distict 19 Zoom meeting. He answered any questions put to him about the results of the event by District Officers and GSRs present.

We faced these challenges: We have yet to fill vacancy of ALT DCM left vacant in February. Notice has been given that anyone interested should show up at our September 2021 District Meeting for election. All persons have agreed to talk with persons they think might be interested and could stand for this position.

We carried the message by: Our in person outreach to treatment centers and prisons are governered by COVID 19 restrictions. At this time, we have no in person outreach. The CPC continues to update District Website and hand deliver paper schedules.

Current goals of this district are: Plan and execute a District 19 Picnic in outdoor area on September 18, 2021. (Duncan Park on Walnut and South Grand). Speak with Memorial Health Systems in regard to the possibility of using Memorial Hospital for either in person or Hybrid Meeting. They are considering all Community Groups for their resources in early November of 2021.

Other things we want to share: We are doing business as usual and hope to increase participation with community as COVID restrictions are lifted. On 9/7/2021, the District Secretary resigned due to increase work commitments. I need to reach out to other Districts and Area for technical help with Google, hotspots, address lists, etc. Tim C. was a great help and allowed me to set up a poll. Thank you so much.

District 20 - Ron J (DCM)

The following important things occurred: At the August 2021 meeting of the District 20 GSR Committee a motion was past to change the meeting schedule of the D20 Committee from monthly to quarterly. Regularly scheduled meetings will be the 3rd Saturday in February, May, August, and November. Interim meetings will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

We faced these challenges: Continue to face low group participation. Only three active group GSRs are represented in the district committee, two of these hold district officers positions (ADCM and Secretary). DCM and Treasure positions are held by past GSRs from inactive groups.

We carried the message by: We will continue to maintain our website, www.aad20.org, as a source of information for the general public and the fellowship. We will continue to maintain the Meeting Guide and printed schedule of meetings. We will continue to maintain the D20 Help-Line.

Current goals of this district are: Keep the district from going dark, again.

We stopped for lunch at 12:35 pm and reconvened at 1:02 pm

Committee Chair Reports:

Archives - Carl M (Chair)

At the meeting: As Area 21 Archivist, I participated with Area 19 and 20 Archivists in an Archives panel of preserving our past at the 2021 Illinois State Conference.

Grapevine (GV) - Dick B (Chair)

The meeting had 5 attendees.

At the meeting: We went over agenda items of importance for both committee's. We talked about all the resources available at aagrapevine.org for GV Reps. reported on 2 new books available from GV (Voices of Women in Spanish & New Prison book Free on the Inside). Ways to give gift subscriptions of GV. We went over duties of open literature committee chair. Shortly after meeting one of the attendee's Lynne D. stepped up to become Literature Chair and we agreed to keep the committee meetings combined to help her with transition and to hopefully get more to attend the committee meetings.

GSR Workshop - Shari D (Chair)

No Report

Literature (Lit) - Lynne D (Chair)

Lynne Davis, alcoholic. My home group is the Here's How group, Carbondale, District 17. I'm the new Area literature chair.

At the meeting: I attended Dick Booker's Grapevine/literature meeting this summer. I'd heard him say he was doing both, and I thought maybe I could help. I went to get information, and he offered me the job of Area literature chair. I will still share committee meetings with him, and I am grateful for his and Rosemary's help in getting started.

I've been trying to learn what I can. One thing I discovered was that currently GSO has a trial shipping discount offer, ending October 18, 2021. Right now shipping prices are \$5 on orders up to \$25, \$7 up to \$50, 12% for \$50-\$250, etc. IBM is unknown right now if the trustees will continue with these discounted prices. So if your group needs to put in a literature order, or you individually are thinking of ordering something (the new Our Great Responsibility, e.g.), it's a good time to do it. There are also \$1 discounts on pocket editions of the Big Book, 12&12, Daily Reflections, and As Bill Sees It, until September 30. And digital versions of those books are available on Kindle, Nook, etc.

I'm grateful to be of service and hope I can be useful in this position.

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

The meeting was held on September 11, 2021 on Zoom (ID: 837 588 5008, P/W: 78438) with 4 attendees.

At the meeting: The 3rd PI/CPC committee meeting for 2021 was held Sept 11. Three district committee chairs were present representing districts 5, 6 and 14. Each chair shared recent activities and future areas of focus.

Two activities of note:

* AA information booth at a community fall festival

* Meetings being held for Salvation Army clients

Upcoming Events/Workshops or Conferences to announce: CPC/PI Speaker and Volunteer Workshop - Presented by Area 19; Tuesday, Sept 28 at 7:00 PM; Hybrid Meeting

Our next meeting will be: 11/20/2021

Ad Hoc Committee on Hybrid/Virtual Assemblies Report

The Ad Hoc committee presented a report with diagrams of the set up to do hybrid assemblies. The items needed:

1. Camera (rotating) - hooked up to computer with USB, will rotate to the speaker at 30° per second and has preset options
2. Laptop - run equipment: camera(s), mixer, and projector
3. Screen - budgeted for previously
4. 2 WiFi hotspots - Verizon and AT&T to allow coverage without using an individual's data during the assembly

This is not a proposal for this Area Assembly, so they will put this into the December budget. There will also need to be an item between the computer and the mixer. The Ad Hoc committee considered two options: buying a new sound system or getting an audio interface to work with the system that the Area already has. Sally (D17 DCM) asked what the interface does? Ed M (Area Alt Chair) stated that it allows everyone in the room and those attending virtually to hear people from the mic, as well as allow people attending virtually to be heard through the audio system for those attending in-person. Steve S (Area Treasurer) stated that purchasing the interface price (around \$100) was much more reasonable than replacing the current sound system. The screen was budgeted for a year or two ago, but it was never purchased. Ed M (Area Alt Chair) clarified that this is what the Ad Hoc committee sees as a need to make hybrid meetings successful, but they are not prepared to give a number or make a motion at this time. The Ad Hoc committee will be prepared to be ready for the hybrid Assembly in March 2022, so the committee will give the Area Treasurer a number for the budget to be approved in December. Bobby D (Past Delegate P69) asked for clarification of the Ad Hoc committee getting a budget line and where the item will go. The Ad Hoc committee will purchase the items needed, but they will belong to the Area, similar to the screen and projector. AV equipment and projector/screen is maintained by the Area Archives Chair. Bobby D (Past Delegate P69) stated that funds may not be a problem right now, but time may be against us. Why does it need to wait to be a part of the budget? Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) stated that the AV equipment and projector/screen was a line item in the budget to keep track of costs, but for hybrid assembly equipment, the Ad Hoc committee is not prepared to give a cost item of what is needed. This is not a motion to be voted on, but an informational presentation to make the body aware of what will be coming soon, function of those items, and estimated cost. Mike F (Past Delegate P53) asked if others would have access to this equipment. Steve S (Area Treasurer) suggested that the Ad Hoc committee come back in December with numbers and estimates to vote on it. Carl M (Area Archives Chair) clarified that in the past items purchased by Area 21 would only be used for assemblies and conferences to avoid scheduling conflicts and items missing. Tim (Area Website & Technology Chair) stated that this was information to show the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee and equipment that will be needed. Tom has been in contact with people to see how this could work with current equipment (trial and error). There will be a presentation of the requested cost for the equipment in December. Will H (D6 DCM) asked the following questions to the committee: 1. In December, are we just online? (answer: yes) 2. In March, are we hybrid? (answer: yes) 3. Is 3 months enough time to get the equipment and make sure it works? (answer: yes). Bobby D (Past Delegate P69) asked what happens if we are missing a piece of equipment? The committee may want to add "fluff" for unforeseen items that had been forgotten. Carl M (Area Archives Chair) clarified that he is not in charge of the PA system for the Area. It is just stored in the storage facility where there is climate control to keep the equipment in tip-top shape, and he has a large vehicle for transportation. Tom H (Area Alt Delegate) stated that the more equipment we add the more we add onto Carl to transport. Carl (Area Archives Chair) stated that he has room to transport it, as well as willingness of others near CSO (Central Service Office in South Roxana) to assist. Mike F (Past Delegate P53) stated that the last time he was in the archives, it was full. Do we have space to store these items? Carl M (Area Archives Chair)

stated that there is a 3' to the ceiling, so we can stack up items higher, but it means more work to add or remove the items. He also added that the facility is expanding, so there may be the opportunity to have access to a larger unit in the future.

Recognition of AA birthdays since June 6, 2021

Sally D17 Jun 14, 20 years; Frank D11 Aug 17, 25 years; Ed M D17 Jun 17, 10 years; Steve D11 Aug 20, 12 years; Cheryl D14 Aug 16, 6 years; Becky D10 Sept 5, 20 years; Carl D18 Aug 29, 45 years, Julie D6 Sept 6, 1.5 years; Dennis D14 Jul 3, 7 years; Rosemary D12 Aug 12, 10 years; Mark D6 Sept 17, 39 years = 195.5 years total
D18 Alton Wednesday Night Group celebrated 60 years and D14 623 group celebrated 37 years

Bids of Future Assemblies and Area Events

1. September 2022 Assembly (date: Sunday September 11): Hybrid and election meeting. Cheryl M (D14 DCM) said that she would take it back to her district to discuss it. Will H (D6 DCM) suggested that the Area consider hosting the Area Assembly at a central location instead of going to Zoom only in case D14 is unable to host it.

Reports on Recent Conferences

1. 2021 Illinois State Conference via Zoom (August 27-28): Leo S thanked everyone involved. Originally the conference started out as an in-person conference, but the committee needed to shift due to the current pandemic. Fortunately, there was no contract with the hotel yet. Amont helped us get started along with members in Area 21 that had the technical abilities. It was an enjoyable conference, as well as the social events. Mail in bills to Area 21, so we can get that all squared away. Dick B clarified that Ryan was the liaison for young people and put together that panel. You can pay to listen to the conference from Amont. It was quality AA; thank you for all that helped, especially the technology committee (Tim and his team). We maxed out at 97 attendees, but it was mostly around 50-60 people.

Reports on Future Area/State/GSO Events

1. East Central Regional Forum (November 19-21, 2021): Gordon N (Area Delegate) will all be virtual, and online registration starts October 25, 2021. You will hear from GSO staff, there will be panels, and delegates will give presentations. If you've never attended a Regional Forum, we highly encourage you to attend. If you register, you will get the final report from the conference.
 2. 2022 ISCYPAA (February 11-13, 2022): It will be in person in Lisle, IL.
 3. 2022 March Assembly (date March 6, 2022): Frank (D11 GSR) stated that it is tentatively scheduled for Hickory Point Township Hall, and the information can be found on Area 21's website. Lunch will be \$10.
 4. 2022 June Assembly (June 5, 2022): Will H (D6 DCM) stated that it was a moving target on the location. The subcommittee will meet soon to flush out more details, so more will be revealed.
 5. Save the date for the 2022 IL State Conference in Lisle, IL: August 12-14, 2022.
- Dick B (Area GV Chair) made a Motion to Adjourn at 2:30 pm. Frank (D11 GSR) 2nd the motion. It was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting until next time. We closed with the Responsibility Statement.