

Fall Assembly – Three Lakes, WI  
Area Assembly Minutes  
October 18, 2014

Meeting was opened at 9:00 AM

Housecleaning including voice/vote explanation, vote by substantial unanimity unless otherwise stated, and “order to the mic”.

A “willingness to conform” was asked for by voice; none opposed.

Traditions were read by Gary S.

Concepts were read by Gail Z.

**Roll Call**

**Area Officers:** Delegate, Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer

**Standing Committee Chairs:** Archives, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Literature, Grapevine, Now & Then, PI, Structures and Guidelines, Treatment

**DCM's:** 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 23

**Area 74 Past Delegates and Trustees who were present:**

Leonard D. Panel 26

Jim S. Panel 40

Bob M. Panel 50 and Past East Central Regional Trustee

Steve H. Panel 60

Marty L. Panel 62

“Unfinished Business” section moved to the end of the day

**Officer Reports (see attachments)**

Secretary / Registrar; no questions offered, (see report, attached)

Treasurer; no questions offered, (see report, attached)

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate; no report

Delegate's Report; no questions offered, (see report, attached)

**Committee Reports - (see attachments)**

Recessed for break at 9:55 a.m.

Reconvened Assembly at 10:05 a.m.

**Conference and Final Conference Reports; (see attachments)**

District 05 Area 74 Fall Conference 2014 Report – Gary S.

District 01 Area 74 Spring Conference 2015 Report – Tom Y.

District 03 Area 74 Fall Conference 2015 Report – Mike M.

Districts 13 and 04 Bid for the Area 74 Spring Conference 2016; District 13 was awarded the Conference by vote (simple majority – ballot)

**New Business 10:37 a.m.**

**Finance Committee – Jeff D., Recommendation; 2015 Area 74 Budget**

<b>Income</b>								
	2010(Actual)	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	As of 10-18-2014	
							2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)
Income								
Group Contributions	\$16,611.71	\$14,928.72	\$17,242.53	\$18,500.00	\$16,038.30	\$17,300	\$14,702.26	\$18,000.00
Other Income	\$5,446.29	\$3,485.88	\$3,895.38	\$2,500.00	\$8,066.27	\$2,000.00	\$2,160.87	\$2,000.00
Personal Anniversary	\$320.37	\$107.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$151.00	\$75	\$189.00	\$150.00
Yearly Beginning Balance	\$12,475.33	\$15,022.11	\$7,974.03	\$6,500.00	\$6,518.39	\$6,500.00	\$7,833.97	\$6,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$34,853.70</b>	<b>\$33,543.71</b>	<b>\$29,161.94</b>	<b>\$27,575.00</b>	<b>\$30,773.96</b>	<b>\$25,875.00</b>	<b>\$24,886.10</b>	<b>\$26,650.00</b>
<b>Area Officer and Committee Chair Expenses</b>								
<b>Officer Expenses</b>	2010(Actual)	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)
Delegate	\$1,803.90	\$2,600.00	\$1,773.55	\$2,600.00	\$2,233.94	\$2,600	\$1,491.00	\$2,600.00
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	\$1,191.52	\$1,139.50	\$435.00	\$1,300.00	\$976.80	\$1,300.00	\$589.00	\$1,300.00
Treasurer	\$396.93	\$799.36	\$521.80	\$700.00	\$627.50	\$700.00	\$448.00	\$700.00
Secretary- Registrar	\$640.25	\$719.50	\$415.73	\$700.00	\$669.75	\$700.00	\$439.00	\$700.00
Committee Chairs	\$3,905.07	\$6,188.47	\$4,707.67	\$7,700.00	\$5,425.18	\$7,700.00	\$4,342.96	\$7,700.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$7,937.67</b>	<b>\$11,446.83</b>	<b>\$7,853.75</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,933.17</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$7,309.96</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>								
	2010(Actual)	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)
Archives	\$510.00	\$401.80	\$487.48	\$600.00	\$551.00	\$850.00	\$407.25	\$1,025.00
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	\$329.12	\$246.10	\$228.08	\$350.00	\$252.60	\$350.00	\$240.46	\$350.00
Corrections Committee MI	\$148.48	\$0.00	\$99.07	\$125.00	\$322.28	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Corrections Committee WI	\$220.23	\$72.13	\$70.00	\$125.00	\$79.00	\$125.00	\$80.00	\$125.00
CPC Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108.40	\$125.00	\$61.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$1,105.00
Finance Committee Expenses	\$902.72	\$652.40	\$382.22	\$500.00	\$452.59	\$500.00	\$304.19	\$950.00
Grapevine Committee	\$50.00	\$186.90	\$24.00	\$350.00	\$163.63	\$400.00	\$149.65	\$900.00
Literature Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88.88	\$50.00	\$35.76	\$200.00	\$109.03	\$400.00
Now & Then Committee	\$3,574.50	\$5,050.45	\$5,338.18	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$7,000.00
Public Information Committee	\$365.04	\$219.50	\$145.84	\$300.00	\$179.50	\$300.00	\$14.25	\$300.00
Secretary Registrar Committee	\$302.06	\$344.00	\$147.06	\$500.00	\$188.74	\$400.00	\$129.00	\$400.00
Struc & Guide Committee		\$34.50	\$333.36	\$500.00	\$373.28	\$400.00	\$459.00	\$500.00
Treatment Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$37.50	\$100.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$6,402.15</b>	<b>\$7,207.78</b>	<b>\$7,542.57</b>	<b>\$9,125.00</b>	<b>\$8,259.38</b>	<b>\$10,050.00</b>	<b>\$6,055.33</b>	<b>\$13,155.00</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
	2010(Actual)	2011(Actual)	2012(ACTUAL)	2013(Budget)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Budget)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Budget)
Seat Delegate	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Registrar Internet	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Assembly & ACM rent					\$350.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$600.00
Assembly & ACM expenses					\$205.23	\$300.00	\$209.40	\$400.00
Conference seed money	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Other\Misc Expenses	\$263.31	\$4,437.89	\$636.91	\$300.00	\$115.00	\$300.00	\$152.53	\$300.00
ECR Conference					\$608.44		\$0.00	\$0.00
East Central Regional Forum			\$225.00	\$750.00	\$148.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Conf. of Delegates past/present Trustee election every 4 years					\$200.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
International Convention	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
International Convention Hospitality Room donation								\$500.00
computer/onetimeexpens								\$750.00
Prudent Reserve			\$600.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$3,758.31</b>	<b>\$7,637.89</b>	<b>\$6,161.91</b>	<b>\$6,090.00</b>	<b>\$6,547.64</b>	<b>\$5,820.00</b>	<b>\$4,311.93</b>	<b>\$7,770.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,098.13</b>	<b>\$26,292.50</b>	<b>\$21,558.23</b>	<b>\$28,215.00</b>	<b>\$24,740.19</b>	<b>\$28,870.00</b>	<b>\$17,677.22</b>	<b>\$33,925.00</b>
<b>End of Year Balance</b>	<b>\$16,755.57</b>	<b>\$7,251.21</b>	<b>\$7,603.71</b>	<b>(\$640.00)</b>	<b>\$6,033.77</b>	<b>(\$2,995.00)</b>	<b>\$7,208.88</b>	<b>(\$7,275.00)</b>
<b>Prudent Reserve</b>			<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,800.67</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

discussion opened, questions offered by 5 GSRs, 3 Past Delegates, 2 Committee Chairs, discussion closed @ 11:30 a.m., Grapevine Committee wishes to caucus, vote to allow GV to caucus by simple majority, 39 Yes, 11 No.

Recessed for lunch at 11:30 a.m.  
Reconvened Assembly at 12:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Recommendation continued;  
CPC removes “other” and “travel” from committee expense, GV makes no change(s), Structures and Guidelines withdraws “\$200 travel reimbursement”. Discussion ends, vote (with changes) taken, 52 Yes, 12 No (81.25%) motion passes, minority opinion offered by 2 GSRs, 2 Committee Chairs, 1 Past Delegate, no reconsideration, motion passes.

#### Finance Committee – Jeff D., Recommendation to Amend Guidelines

Area 74 Finance Committee motion: Change the Area Finance Committee guidelines (Article IV, Section 9.00, first sentence) from “The Finance Committee shall consist of the Area Treasurer, Area Delegate, one past Delegate, and three DCM’s or GSR’s.” to “The Finance Committee shall consist of the Area Treasurer, Area Delegate, one past Delegate, and three past DCM’s or past GSR’s.”

Scope and Background: The Committee feels that the current guideline implies current DCM’s or GSR’s are to be elected for service. We think that current DCM’s are already serving on other Area Committees and have voice and vote at our Assemblies. A conflict of interest can occur for DCM’s or GSR’s who would be elected by the Finance Committee to serve as Chair of the Committee. The committee feels that it is best to draw possible candidates for the positions from past servants who do not already have voice and vote, and are currently not serving on other Committees.

If the Assembly was to pass this motion we would humbly ask the Structures & Guidelines Committee to change the Guideline accordingly.

discussion opened, questions by 1 GSR, 1 DCM, GSR from District 05 offers an amendment, vote to accept amendment, 5 Yes, >2/3’s No, amendment fails, minority opinion offered by 1 GSR, no reconsideration. Vote on primary recommendation, 46 Yes, 12 No (79%), motion passes, no minority opinion offered.

#### Structures & Guidelines – Barb K., Recommendation(s):

##### **History for Recommendations 1 and 2:**

The Structures and Guidelines committee has discussed the current rotation of the three elected committee members during the odd numbered year’s elections. The committee has discussed the absence of any continuity between rotations of the outgoing committee and the newly elected incoming committee, being that they are all elected at the same time. To use the example of the finance committee, which also had the lack of continuity between rotations, the Structures and guidelines committee

believes that it is in the best interest of service to the area that one of the three elected committee members be elected on even numbered years, as which is currently the finance committees practice, and provides the continuity between rotations.

## 1. Recommendations

That Article IV, Section 11.00 is revised as follows:

Current and Revised (Revised is in **bold print**):

**Section 11.00** The Structures and Guidelines Committee is to keep and update the Area 74 Guidelines; to discuss and then recommend changes of the area 74 service structure to the Assembly for approval. The committee would consist of the current Area Chair, current Delegate, past Delegate, and three (3) past DCM's or GSR's elected by the Assembly, of which one of the DCM's or GSR's would be elected chairperson by the committee with approval of the Assembly. **Two of the past DCM's or past GSR's will be elected in odd numbered years and one past DCM or past GSR will be elected on the even numbered years.**

Discussion opened, no comments offered, discussion closed, vote taken 50 Yes, 1 No (98), motion passes, no minority opinion offered

## 2. Recommendation:

That the Area hold an election for a new incoming Structure and Guidelines committee member at the October assembly in the fall of 2014, which rotation would take effect January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

Discussion opened, 1 Past Delegate, 1 Committee Chair, discussion closed, vote taken 53 Yes, 5 No, motion passes, no minority opinion offered.

Presentation on Literature Price Increases – Bob M.

I would like to start my presentation by going back in AA history and review a few major events of our early Fellowship. Prior to 1955 Bill, the recently deceased Dr. Bob, and other old-timers made decisions for our young fellowship. They were the custodians of the “pulse” of what was happening in our infant movement. The Alcoholic Foundation or the General Service Board (GSB) as we know it today, were mostly from New York City and they may have had an understanding of our spiritual principles, but by and large they were business men and professionals in the field of alcoholism. For the most part they were not engaged with the Fellowship as a whole. We all know the story that came next and St Louis International Convention was a major stepping stone in our move to “we have come of age”. Bill fought hard to leave the legacy of his and others work to the fellowship of AA. Thus the General Service Conference (GSC) was born and approved to take our Founders place. The service structure was born and the upside down triangle service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous introduced. The Groups are at the top and responsible for all the services of Alcoholics Anonymous including the actions at the bottom of the service triangle.

In this new service structure the Groups, representing the Fellowship or the membership, would be responsible for the actions of all the service entities below them

in the service triangle through their GSR. The General Service Conference would become the voice of the AA Fellowship to the General Service Board. This would come about by the Group GSR's attending Assemblies and informing the Delegate of their Group's thoughts, then the Delegate taking their assemblies conscious to the GSC. Keeping in mind that the Groups continue to have the final say and if they do not agree with the decisions of the GSC or the GSB, they will always maintain the "power of the purse".

In the early days of the GSC it was common for the GSC to set the price of our literature. In 1954 the literature committee recommended that the Big Book price be set at \$4.00 for groups and \$4.50 for others, and that the 12x12 be set at \$2.50. Today the GSC does not have any participation in the setting of literature prices; it is solely determined by the AAWS board.

Through the readings of Bill W and others, I believe the goal or intent was that our literature someday would either be free or sold at cost to the Fellowship. In my experience I believe the actions this summer of the GSB is not keeping with those thoughts. Over the years it has been a practice and considered part of AA practice that we do not raise money for the sake of having money or as some call a "rainy" day fund. The GSC has discussed and approved the concept of a prudent reserve fund and no more. Bill many times warned us of the consequences of mixing money and AA. Bill introduced our fellowship to the principle of "corporate poverty" and he stated we need to follow that principle in all of our structural affairs. This concept of "corporate poverty" was widely accepted throughout the Fellowship in early AA. In the seventh tradition essay it is stated: "Then our trustees wrote a bright page of AA history. They declared for the principle that AA must always stay poor. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation's financial policy. Difficult as it was, they officially declined that ten thousand dollars, and adopted a formal, airtight resolution that all such future gifts would be similarly declined. At that moment, we believe, the principle of corporate poverty was firmly and finally embedded in AA tradition."

Keeping in mind our history let's review the happenings over the last few months.

On July 3, 2014 Bill N, AAWS Board Chair, and Phyllis H, General Manager GSO, announced a literature price increase that will be effective October 1, 2014. The rationale given in their letter was "Our last price increase was on July 1, 2009, five years ago. We have had several reviews since then and were able to delay any action until now." On August 4, 2014 another letter was received from Bill N and Phyllis H with further explanation of the price increase; "As you know, literature prices help to cover costs for services provided by the General Service Office. As we strive to become more self-supporting it is necessary for the Board to raise prices to maintain the level and quality of those services and the financial health and stability of the office." The new pricing schedule for October 2014 has been released and every piece of our literature has been increased, some by as much as 20%. If you include the price increase from 2009 the combined increase can be as high as 39% on certain pieces of our literature with the highest increases being applied to our "Big Book", "12x12", and "Daily

Reflections”; our largest seller to those of us doing 12 step work.

In the August 4<sup>th</sup> letter there was an announcement that shipping on orders up to \$50 would remain the same (\$10), but those orders of \$51 - \$500 would be lowered by a slight 4%. Orders over \$500 would continue to be shipped at no charge to the purchaser, with the costs being absorbed from the profits of the literature.

With the profits from the sale of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition (cost to produce is about \$3.54 vs cost of the book being \$12.00) and the increase of all literature sales that traditionally occur before a price increase goes into effect, the amount of unbudgeted excess revenue should be quite substantial at the end of 2014. If we sell one million Big Books (average over last five years) in 2015, the profit from those sales alone could be an **additional** \$1.5 million. Questions that should be asked are; what is the stated purpose for this additional profit and where will this money be used to help the alcoholic who still suffers?

After considering the budget presentation given to the Delegates at the GSC the question that comes to mind is; does it seem that our Office is in need of financial stability and help in maintaining the level and quality of services that a literature price increase of this scale is warranted? The GSB Treasurer very clearly pointed out that the Groups have increased contributions to the highest levels in history in 2012 and 2013. For the last two years there has been “excess revenue over expenses” or what we might call profit, even though losses were budgeted for each year. The pension liability fund is in great shape, as is the Reserve Fund even to the point that an extra \$1.5 million could be applied to the Pension Asset fund from the Reserve Fund. In the closing remarks of the Treasurer’s report to the GSC in May of 2015 cited no financial problems were on the horizon.

At the end of 2013 our fellowship contributions were the highest in history to the GSB surpassing \$6.9 million. By the way this surpassed the previous highest amount which was set in 2012 of over \$6.5 million. Percentage of Groups contributing continues to decline reaching an all-time low of 42.5%.

Our General Service Office (GSO) provides two functions to our Fellowship. The first is the publishing of our literature through Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS) and services on behalf of the GSB and the GSC.

AAWS had net sales of \$12.6 million of literature in 2013 with costs associated to publish, distribute, and other services of about \$9.98 million. This resulted in excess revenue over expenses of about \$2.6 million. This excess was applied to the expenses of GSO, AAWS, and Grapevine which resulted in a net profit for 2013 of about \$204,215 against a budgeted loss of \$726,340.

Group services provided by GSO are listed in the “AA Service Manual”. In 2013 the costs of these services to the Groups were roughly \$9.5 million which was up about 2.7% from 2012. The 2013 group contributions fell short by about \$2.6 million in

covering these costs or by about 27%.

The pension benefit obligation plan had quite a few changes in 2013. The change in the discount rate from 3.88% to 4.76% during 2013 resulted in \$4.8 million reduction in the projected benefit obligations or liabilities. In addition, the positive upward movement of the stock market in 2013 resulted in an annual investment gain of \$3.6 million or 18% growth. The combination of these two items resulted in the reduction in the unfunded status from \$10.4 million in 2012 to \$3.6 million in 2013. Further the Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended to the GSB that \$1.5 million be transferred from the Reserve Fund to the Pension Plan Asset Fund. This will further reduce the unfunded liability and has reduced the expense in 2014 to the asset plan fund by \$600,000.

The General Service Board Reserve Fund ended 2013 with a balance of \$15.3 million, equal to approximately 10.9 months of operating expenses. Giving effect to the transfer out of \$1.5 million to the Pension Plan and inflow of the Grapevine's contribution of \$260,000, the adjusted reserve Fund balance would be \$14.0 million, which translates into a reserve coverage ratio of 10.0 months. The 2014 GSB budget projects the ratio will be 9.4 months at December 31, 2014.

The GSB 2014 budget projects a 2014 profit of \$248,101. The GSB Treasurer concludes in his report to the GSC that based on the actions both taken and proposed, the operating organizations, Reserve Fund, and the outlook remains positive for the upcoming year. In the AAWS Highlights dated July 31, 2014 the total unaudited net income for AAWS for the first six months of 2014 is \$627,817. This profit is as a result of many things including the unbudgeted profit from the sale of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.

The new GSB "Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous" recently approved at the February Board meeting in 2014 states in part: "It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a Reserve Fund." Does this literature price increase follow this Policy? Our "Big Book" talks about "spiritual progress will always come before economic security". Has our General Service Board begun to adopt a "corporate" type of thinking to find economic security for our spiritual based Fellowship? Again our co-founder Bill W. warns us on many occasions that we should maintain an attitude of "corporate poverty".

I was wondering why we as a fellowship insist on the practicing our Traditions and Concepts different than how we practice our Twelve steps? Are the legs of our three legacies triangle different lengths? Are the Traditions and Concepts legs considerably shorter than the Recovery leg? Why do we continually read or follow the "white" portions of our writings on the Traditions and Concepts? We "all" definitely have experience with reading those parts of the pages of our Big Book! We know we will get drunk eventually, if we do not follow the black text in the Big Book. What happens if we do not follow the black text of our Traditions and Concepts? Will the Fellowship as we know it die?

Keeping in mind the above, I now offer to the Assembly two proposals for your

consideration.

Sincerely Submitted  
 Bob M.  
 Past Delegate, Panel 50

<b>AA Literature Pricing since 2009 (with PerCent Increases) updated 08/19/14</b>							
<b>ITEM#</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Price Literature 7/1/2008</b>	<b>Price Increase 7/1/2009</b>	<b>PerCent Increase</b>	<b>Price Increase 10/1/2014</b>	<b>PerCent Increase</b>	<b>Percent Increase Since 07/01/09</b>
B-1	Alcoholics Anonymous (4th edition)	\$6.00	\$8.00	<b>25%</b>	\$9.50	<b>16%</b>	<b>37%</b>
B-30	Portable Big Book	\$5.60	\$7.60	<b>26%</b>	\$9.10	<b>16%</b>	<b>38%</b>
B-16	Large-Print Big Book	\$6.30	\$8.30	<b>24%</b>	\$10.30	<b>19%</b>	<b>39%</b>
B-24	Large-Print, Abridged Big Book		\$6.00		\$6.00	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
B-35	Pocket-Size Big Book	\$3.50	\$4.00	<b>13%</b>	\$5.00	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>
B-20	Experience, Strength & Hope	\$9.00	\$5.00	<b>-80%</b>	\$5.50	<b>9%</b>	<b>-64%</b>
B-2	Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions	\$6.40	\$7.40	<b>14%</b>	\$8.90	<b>17%</b>	<b>28%</b>
B-15	Twelve & Twelve (soft cover)	\$6.00	\$7.00	<b>14%</b>	\$8.25	<b>15%</b>	<b>27%</b>
B-4	Twelve & Twelve (gift edition)	\$6.25	\$7.25	<b>14%</b>	\$8.25	<b>12%</b>	<b>24%</b>
B-17	Twelve & Twelve – Pocket-Size	\$4.50	\$5.50	<b>18%</b>	\$6.50	<b>15%</b>	<b>31%</b>
B-14	Twelve & Twelve (Large Print)	\$6.75	\$7.75	<b>13%</b>	\$8.25	<b>6%</b>	<b>18%</b>
B-3	A.A. Comes of Age	\$7.50	\$8.50	<b>12%</b>	\$9.50	<b>11%</b>	<b>21%</b>
B-5	As Bill Sees It	\$7.00	\$8.00	<b>13%</b>	\$9.00	<b>11%</b>	<b>22%</b>
B-18	As Bill Sees It (soft cover)	\$6.60	\$7.60	<b>13%</b>	\$8.60	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>
B-8	Dr. Bob & The Good Oldtimers	\$8.50	\$9.50	<b>11%</b>	\$10.50	<b>10%</b>	<b>19%</b>
B-9	Pass it On	\$9.00	\$10.00	<b>10%</b>	\$11.00	<b>9%</b>	<b>18%</b>
B-12	Daily Reflections	\$7.25	\$8.25	<b>12%</b>	\$10.25	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>
B-19	Daily Reflections – Large Print	\$7.75	\$8.75	<b>11%</b>	\$10.75	<b>19%</b>	<b>28%</b>
B-10	Boxed Set (B-8 & B-9)	\$17.50	\$19.50	<b>10%</b>	\$21.50	<b>9%</b>	<b>19%</b>
B-11	Boxed Set (B-1 & B-20)	\$15.00	\$13.00	<b>-15%</b>	\$15.00	<b>13%</b>	<b>0%</b>
B-6	Came to Believe	\$3.75	\$4.25	<b>12%</b>	\$5.00	<b>15%</b>	<b>25%</b>
B-7	Living Sober	\$3.75	\$4.25	<b>12%</b>	\$5.00	<b>15%</b>	<b>25%</b>
B-13	A.A. In Prison: Inmate to Inmate	\$2.00	\$2.25	<b>11%</b>	\$2.50	<b>10%</b>	<b>20%</b>
B-25	Living Sober – Large Print	\$4.25	\$4.75	<b>11%</b>	\$5.25	<b>10%</b>	<b>19%</b>
B-26	Came to Believe – Large Print	\$4.25	\$4.75	<b>11%</b>	\$5.25	<b>10%</b>	<b>19%</b>
B-27	As Bill Sees It – Large Print	\$7.50	\$8.50	<b>12%</b>	\$9.50	<b>11%</b>	<b>21%</b>



AAWS & GSO Revenue and Expenses 2005 - 2014										
Calendar Year	Contributions		Literature Profit & Other Income		Total Revenue		Operating Expenses		Excess Revenue over Expense	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
2005	\$5,275,000	\$5,417,046	\$5,736,127	\$6,686,030	\$11,011,127	\$12,103,076	\$11,094,644	\$11,126,906	(\$83,517)	\$976,170
2006	\$5,520,000	\$6,068,172	\$7,238,400	\$6,884,002	\$12,758,400	\$12,952,174	\$12,283,425	\$12,294,290	\$474,975	\$657,884
2007	\$6,200,000	\$6,526,002	\$6,563,000	\$7,056,555	\$12,763,000	\$13,582,557	\$12,673,550	\$12,563,980	\$89,450	\$1,018,577
2008	\$6,675,000	\$6,462,760	\$6,832,500	\$6,954,108	\$13,507,500	\$13,416,868	\$13,326,704	\$13,692,233	\$180,796	(\$275,365)
2009	\$6,500,000	\$6,296,110	\$7,733,900	\$8,236,559	\$14,233,900	\$14,532,669	\$13,398,788	\$13,259,109	\$835,112	\$1,273,560
2010	\$6,350,000	\$6,408,421	\$8,453,850	\$7,864,983	\$14,803,850	\$14,273,404	\$13,795,855	\$13,018,115	\$1,007,995	\$1,255,289
2011	\$6,500,000	\$6,264,454	\$7,948,800	\$7,961,980	\$14,448,800	\$14,226,434	\$14,148,720	\$13,408,487	\$300,080	\$817,947
2012	\$6,528,000	\$6,557,608	\$7,920,232	\$7,878,390	\$14,448,232	\$14,435,998	\$14,340,340	\$14,283,553	\$107,892	\$152,445
2013	\$6,697,000	\$6,906,371	\$7,783,550	\$8,109,846	\$14,480,550	\$15,016,217	\$15,091,790	\$14,984,663	(\$611,240)	\$31,554
2014	\$7,000,000		\$9,223,960		\$16,223,960		\$15,928,516		\$295,444	
Summary - 2005 to 2014	27%	27%	36%	21%	32%	24%	36%	35%		\$5,908,061

AAWS & GSO Revenue and Expenses 2005 - 2014 are taken from the General Service Conference Final Reports for each year listed  
The actual financial numbers are taken from the General Service Office operating budget for each year

Calendar Year	Reported Number of		Percentage of Groups Contributing	Estimated Number of		Prudent Reserve	
	Groups	Members		Groups	Members	Available Funds	Actual (Months)
2005	58,067	1,294,678	43.2%	60,185	1,353,883		8.8
2006	58,539	1,308,712	45.5%	60,791	1,245,124		8.5
2007	58,340	1,314,552	45.2%	60,971	1,372,361		9.0
2008	60,093	1,342,380	44.1%	60,699	1,375,598		9.3
2009	61,613	1,358,879	44.3%	61,681	1,382,615	\$12,135,909	9.5
2010	62,873	1,373,681	43.9%	63,173	1,398,767	\$14,368,427	11.3
2011	63,845	1,384,699	42.4%	64,435	1,412,724	\$15,296,921	11.9
2012	64,414	1,388,727	42.4%	65,403	1,423,468	\$15,353,752	11.4
2013	64,694	1,389,602	42.5%	65,913	1,425,647	\$15,301,653	10.9
2014				66,184	1,425,472	\$14,079,035*	9.4*
Summary - 2005 to 2014	11%	7%	-2%	10%	5%		

\* As of June 30, 2014 Reserve fund balance

Conference action, the "Prudent Reserve" was defined as an amount equal to the preceding year's combined operating expenses and should be between 9 and 12 months of those expenses  
The reported group numbers and members are taken from the report titled contributions from groups, individuals, Specials, Special Meetings (comparison section)  
The percentage of groups contributing is taken from the same section as listed on the previous line above  
The estimated number of groups reporting and members are taken from the inset box located in the Conference Report

1:36 p.m.

**Motion to the Area 74 Fall Assembly October 18, 2014:**

In reviewing the financial statements as they were presented in the General Service Conference reports 2005 thru 2014 and the General Service Board Treasurer's presentation at the 64th General Service Conference I have arrived at the following conclusion. Over the last nine years Alcoholics Anonymous has made a profit (excess revenue over expenses) every year except for one for a sum total of \$5.9 million dollars and the GSB has budgeted for a profit of \$295,000 in 2014. Our Prudent Reserve has risen from 8.8 months in 2005 to 10.9 months in 2013. Contributions since 2005 have been steadily increasing by about 27%, with total revenue up about 24%. It appears to me like our Fellowship has been providing the funding "to continue provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of our Reserve Fund" and that a price increase was not warranted this October? Since 2005 we have been responding as our co-founder Bill W. once said that the Fellowship will respond if the need is expressed. In the closing remarks of the GSB Treasurer's report to the GSC in May of 2015, he cited no financial problems were on the horizon.

Does the Area 74 Assembly believe our spiritual principles were followed when

establishing the most recent literature price change and support the price increase? Do you feel this price increase was needed? Will this price increase help the AA member in Area 74 carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic in Northern Wisconsin and the U.P. of Michigan? If you agree this is a concern, I offer the following two recommendations be approved by this body and sent to the General Service Board and the General Service Conference respectively:

**Proposal 1:** We move that the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous review the price increase for AAWS literature that went into effect on October 1, 2014 responding to the following questions.

- Does this price increase follow the spiritual principle of self-support as stated in the recently approved statement “Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous”. In particular the statement; “It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a Reserve Fund.”
- Does this price increase follow the spiritual principle of “corporate poverty” as Bill W stated in the seventh tradition essay: “Then our trustees wrote a bright page of AA history. They declared for the principle that AA must always stay poor. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation’s financial policy. . . . At that moment, we believe, the principle of corporate poverty was firmly and finally embedded in AA tradition.”
- If the GSB finds after review that our literature price increases do not follow our spiritual principles, then the prices will be adjusted accordingly.

**Proposal 2:** We move that: The General Service Conference Literature committee, Finance committee, and Trustees committee review the price increase for AAWS literature that went into effect on October 1, 2014.

- We would like the GSC Literature Committee to review all proposed literature pricing and then send to Conference for disapproval of those prices as it had at past General Service Conferences in 1955, 1957, and 1964.
- We would like the GSC Finance and Trustees committee to review the price increase and determine if the price increase follows:
  - General Service Board “Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous” in particular the following statement: “It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a Reserve Fund.”
  - Tradition 7: “... principle that AA must always stay poor. Bare running expenses plus a prudent reserve would henceforth be the Foundation’s financial policy. . . . At that moment, we believe, the principle of corporate poverty was firmly and finally embedded in AA tradition.”
  - Concept XII Warranty Two; “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.”

Motion seconded, discussion opened, 2 GSRs, 1 DCM, 1 Area Officer, 2 Past Delegates, discussion closed, vote taken 64 Yes 0 No (100%)

Recessed for break at 1:55 p.m.  
Reconvened Assembly at 2:00 p.m.

**WICYPAA Liaison Recommendation – Bob M.,**

We recommend:

- That Area 74 creates a "Liaison Position" named – "WICYPAA (Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Liaison". This person would have a voice only and be a non-voting member of the Assembly.
- The Liaison will be elected by the WICYPAA Advisory Council and will furnish reports to the Area 74 Assembly body as requested by the WICYPAA Advisory Council and provide information on WICYPAA when requested.
- The Liaison will notify the Area 74 Chairperson when WICYPAA has a report to give so he/she can be added to the Assembly agenda
- The Liaison will be listed in the Area Contact Directory.
- That the Area 74 Guidelines be updated to reflect the addition of this position in the following manner: "Currently Article I – Membership, Section 3.00 states: Area Webmaster and Archivist are non-voting members at the business meeting". Will be changed to the following (changes/additions are in "Bold font"):

**Article I Membership**

**Section 3.00 Non-Voting members of the Assembly**

**Section 3.01 Area Webmaster**

**Section 3.02 Archivist**

**Section 3.03 WICYPAA (Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Liaison with voice only**

Article III DCM's, Area Officers, and Duties

**Section 12.0 The WICYPAA (Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Liaison reports to the Area 74 Assembly body as requested by the WICYPAA Advisory Council, participates during Assembly discussion, and will notify the Area 74 Chairperson when they have a report to give so they can be added to the Assembly agenda.**

Article VI Election of Area Officers and Chairpersons

Section 5.0 Exceptions to the election procedure stated above:

**Section 5.03 The WICYPAA (Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Liaison will be elected by the WICYPAA Advisory Council.**

Discussion opened, 4 GSRs, 1 Area Officer, 1 DCM, Question called, vote to vote; majority Yes 5 No, vote taken on motion, 56 Yes, 7 No (88%) motion passes, minority opinion offered by 3 GSRs, 1 Past Delegate, (at least one) majority wishes to reconsider, vote to reconsider, 17 Yes 42 No, reconsideration fails, motion passes.

**What should Secretary/Registrar do with approved minutes; withdrawn**

2:33 p.m.

**Nominations and Elections**

Corrections MI; Brian M. nominated, seconded, accepts, no other nominations, by default.

S&G odd year committee member; nominated Tom L. and Cheryl D., both seconded and accepted, vote taken, Tom L. elected.

Finance odd year committee member; nominated Matt E. and Cheryl D., both seconded and accepted, Matt E. then declines (currently serving as a GSR), no other nominations, Cheryl D. by default.

## **ECR Forum Recommendation**

### **Motion to Amend**

Area 74 treasury offer up to \$75.00 travel reimbursement for up to ten (10) current Area 74 Officers and/or Area 74 Standing Committee Chairs to attend the East Central Regional Forums when scheduled in our region.

### **Area Committee Action**

I brought this motion to amend a past Assembly Action to the Area Committee for discussion, the Committee discussion called a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion to amend the current Assembly Action to include “ incoming “ to the action. The motion if amended would read as follows:

“ Area 74 treasury offer up to \$75.00 travel reimbursement for up to ten (10) current **and/or incoming** Area 74 Officers and/or Area 74 Standing Committee Chairs to attend the East Central Regional Forums when scheduled in our region”

### **Brief History**

Area 74 has a current Assembly Action which offers this \$75.00 travel reimbursement for up to ten current Officers and/or Standing Committee Chairs to attend the ECR when held in our region.

The ECR Forums are held in November of the scheduled year, and rotates being hosted by an ECR Area, also rotating by State. The Forums are open to all A.A. members, and generally have the General Manager and/or Chair of the board of your General Service Office in attendance as well as the ECR Trustee, a GSO staff member and may include other GSO servants to answer questions and present reports or presentations.

This is an opportunity for all A.A. members to meet some of the servants that provide our support in service, and ask questions of how we can together strengthen Alcoholics Anonymous for our future. This also allows you to meet the other Area servants from our East Central Region.

### **Intent**

The ECR Forums are held in the fall of the year our Area has all ready conducted elections for the new Area service positions which will rotate into their positions beginning the following January. Therefore this financial support currently may not allow an incoming elected servant the opportunity to take advantage of the reimbursement as they may not, in that November, be a current Officer or Standing Committee Chair. The recommendation if approved would apply only to regular Regional Forums, not additional or special Forums if scheduled.

### Benefit / Background

Area 74 has approved in our budget \$750.00 for up to ten said members to request financial support to attend our ECR Forum and we have not met or exceeded that number of attending members in the past. Therefore the budget would not need to be changed, and the opportunity for service members active in the Area 74 service structure would be increased.

All A.A. members can enhance their understanding of how our General Service Office works and supports our 12-step work, and get a better personal feeling of character, dedication and friendship of our GSO servants as well as the Officers, Chairs and members of A.A throughout our region.

discussion opened, discussion closed, vote taken 41 Yes 15 No (73%) motion passes, minority opinion offered, no reconsideration.

3:17 p.m.

### Unfinished Business

Structures & Guidelines – Barb K., Recommendation(s);

### Recommendation:

That Article III, sections 6.00 and 7.00 of the Area 74 guidelines be revised as follows:

#### Current:

**Section 6.00** The Area Secretary/Registrar. The Area Secretary's duties are: keeps and distributes the minutes of all Area 74 business and Area Committee meetings the month after the business meeting is held. Maintains Area 74 group/contact information, Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM, Past Delegate addresses and phone numbers. Compile mailing list for the Now & Then and Area needs.

#### Revised:

**Section 6.00** The Secretary records and distributes minutes of Area meetings; keeps mailing lists up to date and sends out Area mailings; sometimes the Secretary is responsible for preparing lively bulletins that will encourage attendance at committee meetings and assemblies. The Secretary is in a good position to act as liaison between Officers and Committee members.

**Section 6.05** The alternate Secretary will assist the Secretary and fill the duties in the Secretary's absence.

Discussion opened, motion to amend, discussion closed, vote to accept amended motion, 49 Yes 1 No, amended motion passes, discussion opened, discussion closed, vote taken, 36 Yes, 21 No (63%) motion fails, minority opinion offered by 1 Area Officer, no reconsideration.

#### Current:

**Section 7.00** The Area Co-Secretary/Registrar assists the Secretary/Registrar.

Revised:

**Section 7.00** The Registrar develops and maintains records of all the groups in the Area, including group name, meeting location, time and group contact. Registrar will be responsible for the names, addresses and phone numbers of the G.S.R.'s and D.C.M.'s, and Area Officers and Area Committee members. The Registrar provides mailing labels for the Area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of the minutes.

**Section 7.05** The Alternate Registrar will assist the Registrar and fill the duties in the Registrar's absence.

Discussion opened, motion to table, seconded, vote on motion to table taken, 43 Yes 20 No, sent back to Committee.

**Recommendation:**

That Article III Sections 6.05 and 7.05 be added to the Guidelines as follows:

**Section 6.05** The Alternate Secretary will be selected by the Secretary and approved by the body. The Alternate Secretary will assist the Secretary and fill the duties in the Secretary's absence.

Discussion opened, none offered, vote taken, 47 Yes 5 No, motion passes, minority opinion offered by 2 GSRs, (one) majority wished to reconsider, vote taken 15 Yes 38 No, reconsideration fails.

**Section 7.05** The Alternate Registrar will be selected by the Registrar and approved by the body. The Alternate Registrar will assist the Registrar and fill the duties in the Registrar's absence.

Discussion opened, discussion closed, vote taken 52 Yes 11 No, motion passes, no minority opinion offered.

P.I. Chair reported on minutes being available in a password protected space on the Area 74 website. Passed out recommendations and "log in" instructions.

Area Chair offers a review of future agenda items.

Motion to close, seconded.

**Adjourned at 4:32 p.m.**

Scott K  
Area 74 Secretary Registrar