

**Area 74 Area Committee Meeting
Saturday December 13, 2014
Three Lakes, WI**

The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

- *The Traditions were read by Sonny
- *The Concepts were read by
- *Voice and vote explanation given

Roll Call

Area Officers:

Delegate, Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Archives, Corrections WI, Corrections MI, CPC, Finance (and incoming), Now & Then, Literature, Grapevine, Structures and Guidelines, PI

DCM's: 02, 04, 07, 08, 09, 10, 13, 18, 20, 21, 23

Recognition of Frank W. former DCM passed away

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 28, 2014 ACM minutes as submitted. Passed by "voice" vote, none opposed.

Delegate Report

Boy, this year flew by—and I am filled with such awe at the level of commitment and hard work that the members, groups, districts, and standing committees have generated this year. It is truly a privilege to be able to serve with you and for you.

Last weekend I attended a Concepts Retreat/Study Weekend and was asked to present on Concept 2. In preparing I realized that I have a lot of things that I can do to be a better servant to Area 74. As Delegate I have come to understand how important it is to bridge the gap between the groups who holds the final responsibility and ultimate authority and the Trustees who hold the active responsibility and immediate authority for AA World Services. To fulfill my obligation in this flow I realize that I have to establish a stronger relationship with the groups, GSR's and DCM's. To gather the collective conscience of Area 74 I need to know you better. So, in the coming year I'm going to make a more concerted effort to reach out to the groups in our Area. I would ask the DCM's to please let the groups know that I want to hear from them through phone calls, letters, emails, invitations to District meetings and workshops. Get my contact information out to the groups in the district and I will do my best to make myself available.

At our Assembly in October 2014 we unanimously voted to forward two proposals on the Literature Price increases that took effect in October to the General Service Conference Coordinator and to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. Those proposals and supporting background materials were mailed on November 8, 2014 with follow-up emails of the same letters and background materials sent on November 14, 2014. I have received acknowledgment of receipt by Mary C, Conference Coordinator; Phyllis H., Manager of the GSO; and Terry Bedient, Chairperson of the General Service Board.

I have the Quarterly Contribution reports from GSO for each DCM. As DCM you should have also received a copy of the letter that was mailed to all groups in your district. The groups should have received the letter and their contribution statement for the ten months ending October 31st. As an Area we have 33.29% of our groups contributing to our General Service Office for a total of \$20,750.79. I also have a list of groups that GSO needs district information for. I will leave the list on the front table and if you can take time during one of the breaks to look at it and see if you can fill in the district number I will then forward the update to GSO.

Local Forum request for 2016 and beyond: read Local Forum explanation included in packet. Deadline for application is April 1, 2015.

If anyone has their suggestions form for Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics for the 66th GSC I will collect them today—they are due to GSO on Monday, Dec. 15th.

Updates from the November Board Weekend of the Trustees

- “ Phyllis Halliday, GSO general manager, announced her retirement for October 2015.
- “ Doug Richardson, longtime GSO staff member will retire this month
- “ The 23rd World Service Meeting was held October 12-16, 2014 in Warsaw, Poland over 39 countries and zones traveled to share their experience, strength and hope.
- “ AAWS Online Store: Year to date web orders account for 53.5% of total sales for AA literature.
- “ Ebooks: AA Comes of Age is now available as a digital book on the three major platforms: Kindle, Apple and Nook.
- “ Final interview for the IT Manager position were hoping to be completed and an offer made to the selected candidate
- “ AA Grapevine: subscriptions & product sales will remain the primary focus / print magazine circulation averaged 74,254 for the first 9 months of the year / GV online circulation was 5,286 / Income is ahead of budget / expenses are below budget / monthly web traffic is averaging at 41,000 unique visitors and 200,000 + page views
- “ Archives: the committee is recommending a revision of a previous Conference Advisory Action in regards to recording of the General Service Conference presentations, talks from the Opening Dinner AA meeting, and the trustees’ farewell talks being made available for distribution. This may be forwarded as a 2015 Conference agenda item.
- “ General Service Conference: request to develop a book that is a compilation of General Service Conference presentations / agreed to forward to the GSB a request to consider changing the structural relationship between online groups and the General Service Structure / change in procedure: at the January Board Weekend meeting of Trustee’s Committees the Conference Committee Chairs will be active participants in their corresponding Trustees’ Committee meeting and will review proposed background for their committee (voice, but no vote)
- “ Finance & Budgetary: the committee recommended to the GSB that: The GSB of AA undertake a comprehensive feasibility study of the current business models, corporate structure, and long term sustainability of the General Service Board and both operating Corporations, keeping in mind the Spiritual Basis of AA.
- “ International Conventions/Regional Forums: planning is on schedule / rooms are still available through the Housing process / there will be invitations extended to special guests who are surviving links to AA’s early history: Ruth Hock’s daughter—Ruth was AA first national secretary and worked with Bill W. and to Sr. Judith Ann Karam, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity.—the Sisters of Charity is the order to which Sister Ignatia belonged. It has been recommended that the 35th millionth Big Book will be presented to the Sisters of Charity at the Convention / there is going to be a large space focusing on AA service named “Carry The Message” Delegates will be asked to provide names of servants from their Area to staff this space. If you are planning to

attend the International Convention and would like to help in this area—please let me know today.

“ Nominating: a list of 7 prospective Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees will be interviewed in January for the 2 Class A Trustee vacancies to occur at the next GS Conference.

2015 Theme of the 65th General Service Conference will be

“Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service - The Foundation for Our Future”

2015 Presentation/discussion topics will include:

Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action:

- A) Diversity in AA—Our Heritage of Inclusion
- B) Safety and Respect— Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
- C) Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
- D) Inventory—Looking Back to Move Ahead

Questions/Comments for Delegate; Area Officer – “Civil Law Suit”, GSO will not discuss or comment while pending. Committee Chair – commented on Russian GSO challenges and licensing agreement.

10:46 a.m.

DCM Reports

Reports were given by all Districts’ present, (see attachment).

11:15 a.m. Break

11:26 a.m. Reconvened

Unfinished Business

Bob M.; Assembly Formats and Sharing Sessions, presentation, questions or comments offered by DCM, Officer, Officer. Delegate proposes including “New Business” topic “Inability to publish October Assembly Agenda due to timing of Assemblies, presentation, questions or comments offered by 5 Committee Chairs, 1 Officer, 2 DCMs

Break for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

Reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

Resumed unfinished business, 4 issues are noted; forming an Ad Hoc committee, timing of the October Assembly, Equipment oversight and Sharing Session(s).

Timing of October Assembly; tabled

Incorporate sharing Session and Equipment Oversight and hand over to Ad Hoc committee

Ad Hoc committee to create its’ own scope, report on “issues” at the March ACM and Area Chair will take this report of issues to the Area Assembly, Committee comprised of Secretary, Archivist, N&T Chair, 1 Past Delegate (Marty L.), S&G Chair, Area Chair and ACM member (Area Treasurer volunteered), comments offered by ? Committee Chairs, ? DCMs and 1 Officer.

Vote taken on “Do you support creating an Ad Hoc committee”?, vote taken, 19 Yes, 5 No, 79%, motion passes, minority opinion offered by 2 Committee Chairs, Officer, DCM, ? majority asks for reconsideration, vote taken, 10 Yes, 13 No, reconsideration fails.

Break at 2:05 p.m.
Reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

New Business

Treasurer providing percentages for more accurate budgeting – Derek T, presentation, questions and comments offered by 4 Committee Chairs, DCM, Officer

Barry B. – District Hotline numbers, sent to the P.I. Committee

Approve Delegates Workshop agenda; two additions to New Business – (1) ECR Trustee at Fall conferences (who pays) and (2) Approve Bob D. as ne Finance Chair, remove or relocate WICYPAA report if necessary, motion made to approve Agenda as amended by voice – passed.

3:13 p.m.

Now & Then Report

Literature Chair Report

Closed at 3:20 p.m.

Addendums

Addendum 1

Area Chair Report to Area Committee December 13, 2014
Conducting Area Business in an Organized and Timely Fashion
New Business - Why Oct Agenda not in N&T

At the close of December, I will have completed one-half of my commitment to Area 74 as Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. As Area Chair, my responsibility is to chair business meetings of Area 74; as Alt Delegate, I am responsible for business meeting agendas and Area 74 member requests being addressed in an organized and timely fashion.

As such, here are some observations:

- The Area Committee sets and approves Assembly agendas
- Assembly Agendas are to be published in the *Now & Then*
- At the August 2014 ACM we approved two Assembly agendas (September and October) because of the timing of the Four Assembly per year format
 - Meeting was difficult to facilitate and confusing for those in attendance
 - During that approval process the question of no Sharing Session at October Assembly was brought up
 - Issue was added to Sept ACM agenda as an update from Bob M
- October's approved Assembly Agenda did not get published in the Oct *Now & Then*
 - Agenda wasn't approved until several days after the September 15th submission deadline for the *Now & Then*
 - Sharing session agenda item was tabled at September ACM due to time
 - Sharing session agenda item was added to unfinished business for December 13, 2014 ACM
- Mary Jo and I talked about proposed agendas
 - I thought agenda formats were "suggested" because they were "proposed" and we hadn't followed them the rotation before

- Mary Jo and I started looking at minutes to see when the Four Assembly per year Agenda was approved
 - The concept was passed at April 2011 Assembly
 - No format suggestions were provided to the Assembly for approval

During the research process, neither Mary Jo nor I could find a complete set of business minutes within Area 74

- We called past servants to see what information we could piece together
- With help of many we compiled quite a bit
- Minutes we found are not wholly accurate - April 10, 2010 Assembly Minutes report a motion failed 552 to 36
- To my knowledge we have never had 552 people at an Area 74 Assembly

This prompted Mary Jo's fabulous article in the December 2014 *Now and Then* and our further discussion

- We are one and a half rotations into the four assembly per year format
- There are some logistical problems with the format
- We have no way to evaluate how the four assembly per year process is working

This brought me full circle to what I am supposed to report on today– Why the October Assembly Agenda which is approved at the Fall Conference Area Committee Meeting can't be published in the October *Now & Then*.

Summary of problems Mary Jo and I encountered as we researched

- No complete set of minutes anywhere
- When minutes are approved with corrections, there is no distribution of FINAL minutes so we don't know if our personal copies are pre or post body approval
- We rely on memory rather than approved minutes to reconstruct history
- When we stopped publishing minutes in the *Now & Then* we lost our most complete process of accounting for area business
- There does not appear to be any back-up of the information we do have
- Private collections of Area history are more complete and accurate than the Areas collection
- Private collections are not permanent – people die and go back out
- There is no index of changes and motions that have been made over the years to procedures or guidelines
 - Very difficult to find answers to questions without reconstructing history
 - If you're not sure of timing of some change, you need to contact someone who may remember timing and begin a narrowed search
 - If you don't have access to someone who knows, you can either wait to hear from them or read ALL the minutes yourself and hope you find what you are looking for
 - What should have been a 2 hour job became a 20 hour project that still is not complete
- Leonard talked about a gap of oversight of equipment – I believe we need to expand his concerns to oversight and accountability of information and processes
- None of this will be captured in our minutes

With that said, as the person responsible for organized and timely Area requests, I would be remiss if I did not report my experience. Since the Area Committee is responsible for the health and well-being of the Area, I chose to begin here.

Open for discussion

Options I see going into this:

- Do nothing – leave it as it is

- Form an ad-hoc committee to look at this. Ask the following:
 - Archivist
 - Secretary
 - N&T
 - S&G
 - Past Delegate
 - At large (odd #)
 - Area Chair

Respectfully Kim Rainer

Addendum 2

December 13, 2014 Area Committee Findings & Comments
 Conducting Area Business in an Organized and Timely Fashion

Committee Decision

Would the Area Committee support the Area Chair in appointing an ad-hoc committee to work with her to unravel these issues? Yes – but with some reservations

The overall scope of the ad-hoc committee is to:

1. Create the committees narrower scope based on information presented at the December 13, 2014 ACM
2. Prioritize committee findings
3. Establish a plan to disseminate action items to appropriate committees for implementation
4. Identify a means to evaluate after implementation

The ad-hoc committee is to report to the Area Committee at the March ACM on items 1 and 2 above.

The Area Chair is to report to the Assembly body at either the Delegates Workshop Assembly or Spring Assembly depending on ad-hoc committee progress and feedback from the Area Committee

Ad-hoc committee members to include:

Secretary – Scott Kramar
 Archivist – Pete Wagener
 Now & Then Co-editor – Bob Mayer
 Structures & Guidelines Chair – Barb Kramar
 Past Delegate – Marty Laakso
 At large member – Derek Tait
 Area Chair – Kim Rainer

Attendee's Comments

I am including these comments as a reminder that this was not a unanimous decision and the motion to reconsider only failed by two votes. I think it is important to remember the expressed concerns of those in opposition.

Pre-vote attendee comments:

- Committee should not be selected today (DCM)
- Not all issues are within the health and well-being of the Assembly (Area Officer)
- Not on board that these are important issues (Area Committee Chair)
- Isn't that what a committee does, deal with issues first, then present it to the body. (Area Committee Chair)

- All the committee would be doing is identifying problems and then bringing them back to the ACM for further input, I think it's a good idea (DCM)

Area Committee voted - 19 in favor 5 Opposed

Minority voice:

- Prefers a simpler idea (Area Committee Chair)
- Directions are coming from those who should be receiving directions (Area Officer)
- The Scope is too broad – too open ended (DCM)
- What business is being dropped with the way things are being done now (Area Committee Chair)

Motion to reconsider failed – 10 in favor 13 opposed

Respectfully Kim Rainer