

Area 74 Assembly Minutes April 2, 2016---Three Lakes Wisconsin

8:30 AM – New GSR / DCM Orientation

8 GSR were in attendance and 1 DCM in attendance

9:00 AM – Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome new GSRs: Kurt District 2, Brandon District 18 (alternate), Betsie District 10 (alternate), Greg O. District 21, Patty District 23, Peter District 5, Christie from Shell Lake, Patty an AA member from Iron Mountain, Will an AA member

Welcome new DCMs

Housekeeping/Announcements

Opened Assembly with the Serenity prayer

The traditions were read by Dave S., GSR District 18

The Concepts were read by David, GSR District 10

The counters were Gloria 09, Matt 02, Greg 21, Bob 08

The timer was Adam, District 08

Agenda Changes

Len D: Strategic Plan will be time consuming; put on May or September agenda.

Bob M: Strategic Plan will be brought up at Conference. Derek needs to know how the Area feels about it.

Jay H: If too time-consuming, then we can table it.

Jeff C: We need a good, informed discussion.

Vote to reconsider, none opposed.

Discussion – Len D: Don't know how many people really understood the Strategic Plan. Will be very time consuming.

Jay H: on agenda and approved. New business changed and can be moved.

Derek T: would rather go to the Conference with some information rather than none.

Jeff C: The GSB has been discussing it, they will count on our ignorance.

Steve H: Call the question.

Vote: All in favor.

Motion: Keep agenda as is except Registrar's report is first. Only 1 opposed.

Roll Call

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

Area 74 Committee Chairs

Archives, Corrections MI, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Grapevine Chair, Now & Then, Literature, Public Information, Structures & Guidelines, Treatment

DCMs

01, 02, 03, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 13, 16,17, 18, 20, 21, 23

Past Delegates present

Panel 26 Len D

Panel 50 Bob M (also past ECR Trustee)

Panel 56 Jeff C

Panel 60 Steve H

Panel 62 Marty L

We recognized the passing of Cliff P., a long time Area 74 servant from District 11

Approved October, 2015 assembly minutes

Char V. correction: p. 7, remove line “The booklet of Actions will be placed on the next Assembly Agenda” A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes with correction
Passed by substantial unanimity

Area Officer Reports (see page 04)

Reports from Committees on Conference Agenda Topics: These are in a separate document entitled “2016 GSC Conference Agenda Topics”

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Len D: Business or Service Meetings?

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines *business* as:

1. A person’s occupation
2. Commercial activity
3. A commercial organization
4. Work to be done or matters to be attended to
5. A person’s concern

The first three would never apply, but would 4 or 5 apply as used in an A.A. Assemblies application? To answer that question where would one go to find the answer? Area 74 suggests we first go to *The A.A. Service Manual*. Chapter four (4) deals with Area Assemblies and Activities – S36 to S43 I have the 2013-2014 edition and looking on those pages I do see some mentions of business, but only in dealing with how the Assembly deals with the General Service Conference and the Area by using the General Service Office. Notice how the word service is used in these matters.

How does “OED” define SERVICE:

1. The act of serving.
2. A period of employment with an organization.
3. Help or advice.
4. A religious ceremony.
5. A system supplying a public need.
6. A department run by the state.
7. (the services) the armed forces.
8. A routine inspection and maintenance of a vehicle etc.
9. A set of matching crockery.
10. A serve in Tennis etc.

Definitions 1, 3 and arbitrarily 5 would be suitable definitions for arguments under discussion for this paper.

Some history in our service structure is now needed if we can understand the difference between “*business and service*” with reference to meetings. The greatest and most active use of meetings is our recover meetings; I go to the “T and T group” and we hold our meetings on Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:00 AM, you are all welcome to come if you are in Ishpeming MI on those days. Once a

month we hold service meetings with topics of District importance including topics that might be of importance to the District, Area, or General SERVICE Conference.

Whether these topics pertain to questions coming from a Conference Committee or Trustee Committee that would or should be forth coming in helping the still suffering alcoholic at any level it should be discussed at all levels. This is the greatest SERVICE we provide and to call this a business meeting is profaning the word SERVICE and all those SERVANTS who have come before us in this Fellowship we all love.

Now I would like to end by discussing the words of Doctor William D. Silkworth and others whom Bill is plagiarizing when telling Ruth Hawk what to write in our beloved book "Alcoholics Anonymous" our "Big Book". In the "Doctors Opinion", Fourth Edition, page xiv he quotes: "*Though we work out solution on the spiritual as well as an altruistic plane . . .*" Further on page xv, Dr. Silkworth states: "*The unselfishness of these men as we have come to know them, the entire absence of profit motive, and their community spirit, is indeed inspiring to one who has labored long and wearily in his alcoholic field. They believe in themselves, and still more in the Power which pulls chronic alcoholics back from the gates of death.*"

The writers of the Big Book made it clear all our interest inside of Alcoholic Anonymous should be done on a spiritual and altruistic plane, therefore all the work we do to help the still suffering alcoholic is service we provide whether it is at a home group, district service meeting, an area service meeting were we discuss all those items coming from the groups and ultimately ending at the General Service conference or coming back from the three corporate boards attending to the needs of the home group. We must understand Grapevine Inc., A. A. World Services Inc., and The General Service Board Inc. (GSB) will need to attend to the corporate BUSINESS of their structures; but all the endeavors are done to create a SERVICE for all levels spiraling upward to our home groups. This business is the only business done in and for Alcoholics Anonymous and ask any present or past Trustee when this work is done and they will tell you Monday or Tuesday following board weekend generally, but they meet on other occasions. On one of those occasions I will quote from work created for our groups by the GSB when they choose to take an inventory.

I will end this background by quoting from the A.A. General Service Conference Inventory page 3 par. 1 Introduction, History:

"... ... These Concepts therefore aim to record the ' of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the lessons we have drawn from that experience can never be forgotten or lost."

Let Area 74 return to attending to the SERVICE of Alcoholics Anonymous by holding service meetings by helping our Delegate serve our area and the GSC serve the still suffering alcoholic.

I'm placing before the Assembly a motion:

Remove from our present and future area writings the words Business meetings and replace them with Service meetings.

Respectively Submitted

Leonard DeWitt, Past Delegate, Panel 26, Area 74

Motion was seconded. Discussion followed.

Michelle moved to call the question, and was seconded.

61 yes, 2 no

Vote on motion:

56 yes (88.9%), 7 no (11.1%)

Minority opinion:

Jeff C: too absolute, would change all reference of business to service

Brent: "give me the business" somebody asked for it, not service

Cary (?): searched 12 & 12 for Business, Tradition 2, Tradition 10, AA Business meeting

Bob M: would like to change opinion.

Vote to reconsider:

14 Yes, 40 no - no reconsideration.

Motion to close the meeting: 50 yes, 11 no

4:55 PM Closed with the Responsibility Declaration

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Zanoni, Secretary, Area 74

Officer Reports

Registrar I have three main points to cover, registration of new groups, group changes, GSR and DCM changes; the Area Contact Directory, and the newsletter mailing labels.

To register as a new group a New Group form needs to be filled out. It can be sent to the Area Registrar or to the GSO. GSO then reviews and records that information. After a six month waiting period, the new group will be assigned a service number and is set as active. If a group needs to change its address or name, that request must be sent to the GSO directly. To change GSR and DCM information the DCM Change form or Group Information form must be filled out and can be sent to the Area 74 Registrar or to GSO. A telephone number change or email address change of an individual probably does not require a form to be completed if the change is made by the Area Registrar. District Chairs such as literate chair, or public information chair can also be registered with GSO by the Registrar.

The Registrar maintains the Contact Directory. At present the directory needs to be updated, which will be completed shortly. I would ask everyone, especially DCMs to double check their info and contact me with the errors. The Registrar sends a copy of the revised contact list to the webmaster, who updates the information on the website. I believe the website is updated on a monthly basis.

Each active group in Area 74 receives a hardcopy of the Area newsletter. The newsletter must be mailed to a Group Contact person. That contact may be the GSR, but it doesn't have to be. A non GSR contact may be used. If a group doesn't have a GSR or Group Contact the group will eventually be classified as inactive. If you are not receiving a hardcopy of the newsletter and believe you should be please contact the Registrar. The mailing list was updated for the April addition. If you haven't received a hardcopy of the April addition, please contact the registrar.

If a group, or any servant of a group or district are unsure if they are registered and active please contact the Registrar for clarification.

The Registrar can change a group's district identification. I had stated to a DCM previously that GSO had to make that change., I was wrong and apologize for that. I am not exactly sure what past practice is for district identification. For some groups it is obvious, but those towns that lay close to the border between two districts, I would imagine could choose witch district they will be associated with.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve.

Yours, In Service,
David Johnson
Area 74 Registrar
davidj3416@yahoo.com.
(715) 571-3724

Secretary

Good morning Area 74 servants and AA members,

I'm an alcoholic, my name is Michelle Zanoni and I currently serve as your Area 74 Secretary.

My service began in December, preparing the minutes for the December Area Committee Meeting. This is a much bigger job than I thought it would be, and I am very grateful that the Secretary and the Registrar are now two separate positions. I couldn't imagine doing both at the same time.

I attended the Delegate's workshop and Area Committee Meeting last month and did my best to get the minutes out quickly so DCMs and GSRs had time to present the items to be discussed at the General Service Conference to their groups.

I appreciate getting typed reports via email from all Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCMs as quickly as possible after the Assembly. A few people have even sent me their reports ahead of time – it really helps. I understand some of you don't have computer access. I will accept hand-written reports.

I would also like to thank my co-secretary, Vickie Ackley. She has been a big help to me.

I look forward to serving as secretary for the next two years. Serving Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity has already helped my sobriety immensely.

Thank you.

Treasurer

YTD expense sheet (see page 10)

No return address for three groups.

Changed the expense sheet to be closer to how the budget is reported.

- Group contributions YTD are \$5,812.78
- 6,937.16 in checking and \$3002.53 in prudent reserve

- 773 active groups as of 3/5/16, 92 contributing groups, 11.90% of groups contributing

Area 74 Treasurer, Kim R.

Question and Comments

Bob M – do groups in correction facilities contribute? (answer was no) Can we remove those groups when calculating the percentage of groups that contribute? Yes.

Alternate Delegate/Area Chair

Hello, my name is Sara and I am currently serving Area 74 as your panel 66 Alternate Delegate / Area Chair. Thank you for this privilege. What an experience I have had already in such a short time. I can tell you there has been a lot of activity! I am learning a lot and am excited to continue my journey in this service position. On January 16th, I attended the Green Bay Intergroup in District 01. It was awesome to be a part of the celebration of 75 Years of AA in Green Bay. The weekend of February 12-14, 2016, I had the opportunity to attend the Conference of Delegates Past & Present in Milwaukee, WI. The weekend was absolutely fantastic! After much preparation, the Area 74 Delegates Workshop and Area Committee Meeting took place on March 5, 2016, at Three Lakes, WI. The following weekend, March 12, 2016, I participated in the “Our Common Welfare – AA Workshop” in Kaukauna, Wisconsin held in District 02.

The last Tuesday of each month I have been participating in the DCM conference call. As Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, I get to participate on the Structures and Guidelines Committee. We have had several phone conference calls since the beginning of the year. I am involved as a member of the Conducting Area Business (CAB) Ad Hoc Committee. I have had the wonderful experience of being able to work very closely with our Delegate, Derek T., on an on-going basis and try to keep in close contact with him. I pray daily for Derek and am one of his biggest supporters that he will be able to fulfill his duties as Delegate. I continue to have almost daily phone contact and email correspondence with many AA members throughout Area 74. I continue to read all the endless information I receive on AA through email and snail mail. I am studying the AA Service Manual and the Roberts Rules of Order to help me carry out my duties in this position as your Alternate Delegate / Area Chair. Thank you for this humbling experience!

Yours in Love & Service
Sara Plansky-Pecor
Alternate Delegate / Area Chair

Delegate

Delegate's Report
To the Area 74 Assembly
04/02/16

Welcome to all the new GSRs and DCMs! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate to the General Service Conference. It truly is an honor and a privilege. I have already been quite busy in my position since the beginning of the year.

I attended the 75th Anniversary of AA in Green Bay on January 16. I was asked to announce all Area 74 trusted servants who were in attendance.

In February, I attended the East Central Region's Conference of Delegate's Past and Present in Milwaukee. The Conference helps prepare the newly seated Delegates for the experience of the General Service Conference. It was a very busy and informative weekend; I learned a lot, especially from the mock Conference Committee meeting where the assembled discussed a hypothetical agenda item. I presented our Area Highlights, which will be published in the Final Conference Report. I was also asked to present on a panel "Young People in AA; Are They Members?" In preparation for the presentation I had the opportunity to do some background research by contacting the GSO Archives desk. I enjoyed reviewing some of Bill W.'s correspondence with the Fellowship.

Also in February, I assisted in addressing an anonymity break at the public level in Area 74. I contacted GSO's Public Information desk for shared experience. I sent a letter to those members who broke their anonymity at the public; the letter contained a gentle reminder of our tradition of anonymity at the public level, along with a copy of the pamphlet *Understanding Anonymity*. I was invited by the DCM of District 10 to speak at the Newbold Group in Rhinelander on February 27. Thanks again to Terri B. and her husband Randy for hosting me.

On March 5, I participated in the Delegate's Workshop here in Three Lakes, WI. It was a full day and turnout was great. Thank you to all who showed up and participated in the workshop. I participated in the District 02 "Our Common Welfare" Workshop March 12. I have participated in two Delegate teleconference in February and March with our ECR Trustee present. I have also participated in the both the monthly Finance and Structures & Guidelines teleconference calls. I continue to participate in two other weekly conference calls: one that studies AA Comes of Age and service topics, the other studies the Service Manual, Concepts and service topics.

I have been invited to participate in several district Workshops in Area 74 following the General Service Conference: District 04 on May 7, District 18 on May 14 and District 20 on June 18. Please let me know if and when you would like me to come to your District or Workshop to report on the happenings of the General Service Conference or any other topic you desire. I am at your service. I look forward to participating in the Spring Conference in May.

I have been invited to participate on a panel at the East Central Regional Conference August 12-14, 2016 in St. Charles, IL. The flyers are out and they are available on the entry table. I have also been asked to facilitate an Area 74 Panel; I will be requesting participation at a later date. Let me know if you plan on attending. I presented a motion to the Area Committee Meeting in March regarding a reimbursement of up to \$75 each for up to 10 Area Committee members and past Delegates to attend the ECR Conference. The Area Committee unanimously approved to move the motion forward to the Assembly. The motion

will appear under New Business today, time permitting. The background also appears in the April Now and Then.

The General Service Conference is fast approaching, April 17-23. I will arrive Friday April 15, in time to attend the first scheduled event of the weekend on the morning of April 16 – a visit to Bill and Lois' historic home 'Stepping Stones'. I am very excited to be serving on the Literature Committee at the Conference. It is a (t)radition that Delegates bring a token from their area to give away to the other Delegates. With help, I have prepared a service-related Area 74 pin and I will bring extras to the Spring Conference.

There was a change made to the 2016 General Service Conference agenda to defer the scheduled workshop "Anonymity – the Spiritual Foundation" until 2017 and replace it with a presentation and discussion workshop on the General Service Board's feasibility study. The Chair of the GSB sent out a poll vote to all the members of the 2015 General Service Conference in mid-December. Thank you to those who participated in the Sharing Session yesterday evening in Rhinelander. The turnout and discussions were both excellent.

There are several Trustee and Director openings on the horizon:

- There is an opening for a Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee on the General Service Board. Terrance Bedient, Board Chair, rotates in 2017. Resumes are due by July 31, 2016
- There will be an opening for an A.A. World Services Non-trustee Director, to be filled April 2017. Resumes are due by July 1, 2016. Sobriety requirement is seven years and preferred background in finance, publishing, management, legal or IT.
- There will be an opening for A.A. Grapevine Non-trustee Director position as well to be filled April 2017. Resumes are due by May 31, 2016. Seven-year sobriety requirement.
- Our East Central regional Trustee, Bill F. will rotate off and our new ECR Trustee will be elected at the April 2017 General Service Conference. We'll select an Area 74 Past Delegate by Third Legacy to forward as our candidate this fall.

For more info on all these openings, please check out the current Box 459 or see me for details. I recently forwarded the General Service Board's Strategic Plan. I will be interested to hear your feedback on the Strategic Plan.

There are copies of the 2013-2015 General Service Conference Inventory Report available in both English and Spanish.

To date, I have used approximately \$800 of my \$2600 annual budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Area 74 and A.A. as whole. Thank you for all of your work in preparing me for the General Service Conference. I am very grateful for the support. I do hope you will continue to pray for me over the next 21 months. I look forward to reporting back to you on my Conference experience at the Spring Assembly in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek T., Delegate
Panel 66 Area 74
Northern Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Area Committee Chair Reports

Except for the Webmaster Report, the Area Committee Chair Reports are part of the document titled, "2016 Conference Agenda Topics"

Webmaster:

On average area74.org most active day is Tuesday between the hours of 9pm and 10pm. We get on average 20 visitors a day. On weeks of large events like conference we can get up to 60 visitors a day. Most visitors are looking at meeting list followed by district website and then the events calendar. 2014 10 flyers were posted 2015 18 flyers were posted and 2016 we are on track to post 20 flyers. District 8 and 5 meeting list were the most downloaded meeting list. The service site has had 1038 log ins. If your group has any suggestions for additional content for the website please let the PI committee know. Thank you for letting me be of service, Matt.

Area 74 - 2016 YTD Revenue/Expense Report
1-1-2016 through 3-31-16

CARRYOVER FROM 2015	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2015	6,562.07
Carryover prudent reserve	3,002.53
TTL CARRYOVER FROM LAST MONTH	9,564.60

OFFICER & CHAIR EXPENSES	
Delegate	1000.00
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	424.00
Treasurer	10.00
Registrar	7.30
Secretary	25.00
Archives	15.00
Corrections MI	15.00
Corrections WI	20.00
CPC	66.00
Finance Expenses	30.00
Grapevine	
Literature	36.00
Now & Then	35.00
Public Information	
Structures & Guidelines	30.00
Treatment	51.00
YTD Chair Expenses	\$ 1,764.30

COMMITTEE EXPENSES	
Archives	
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	19.50
Corrections Committee MI	55.00
Corrections Committee WI	
CPC Committee	10.00
Finance Committee Expenses	27.40
Grapevine Committee	
Literature Committee	
Now & Then Committee	1000.00
Public Information Committee	
Registrar Committee	
Secretary Committee	
Structures & Guidelines Committee	44.80
Treatment Committee	
YTD Committee Expenses	\$ 1,156.70

OTHER EXPENSES	
Seat Delegate	1600.00
Registrar Internet	
Assembly & ACM rent	150.00
Assembly & ACM expenses	88.21
Conference seed money	1000.00
Other/Misc Expenses	50.00
ECR Conference	
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)	
East Central Regional Forum	
Conf. of Delegates past/present Trustee election every	
International Convention	
International Convention Hospitality Room donation	
Sec/Reg computer/onetimeexpens	
Prudent Reserve	
YTD Other Expenses	\$ 2,888.21

REVENUE SUMMARY	
Group Contributions	5,812.78
Anniversary & Individual Contributions	23.00
* Other Income *	103.00
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 5,938.78

* OTHER INCOME *	
Interest Income	-
Refreshment Contributions	103.00
Seed Money Return Spring 2016	-
Conference	-
Spring 2016 Conference Gain/Loss	-
Seed Money Return Fall 2016 Conference	-
Fall 2016 Conference Gain	-
Total Other Income	\$ 103.00

EXPENSE SUMMARY	
Chair Expenses	\$ 1,764.30
Committee Expenses	1,156.70
Other Expenses	2,888.21
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 5,809.21

TOTAL ASSETS	
Balance-Checking March 31 2016	\$6,937.15
Outstanding Checks	245.51
Balance-Prudent Reserve March 31, 2016	3,002.53
TOTAL ASSETS March 31, 2016	\$ 9,694.17

BANK PROOF	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2015	\$ 6,562.07
Carry Over Prudent Reserve	3,002.53
YTD Total Revenue	5,938.78
YTD Total Expense	5,809.21
TOTAL ASSETS March 31, 2016	\$ 9,694.17

YEAR TO DATE GAIN / LOSS	
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 5,938.78
YTD Total Expenses	5,809.21
YTD Net Gain (or Loss)	\$ 129.57

GROUP PARTICIPATION	
Active Groups As of Mar 5, 2016	773
Groups Contributing	92
Percent of Active Groups Contributing	11.90%