

**Area Committee Meeting December 10, 2016
Three Lakes, WI
Minutes**

The meeting opened at 10 am.

Housekeeping by Sara P including voice/vote explanation, vote by substantial unanimity unless otherwise stated, and 4 minutes for DCM reports & 2 minutes for comments.

Timer: Dawn

Counter: Sully

Traditions read by Barry

Brent Lit Chair brought Literature, but it's outside so see him if you want something.

Serenity Prayer

Roll Call: Area Officers

Area Chair / Alternate Delegate, Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Archives, Corrections MI, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Grapevine Chair, Now & Then, Literature, Treatment

DCMs:

01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10 (alt), 13, 16, 20, 23

Moment of silence for any Alcoholics that have passed away.

Minutes from the 9/18/16 Area Committee Meeting were approved without changes.

Delegate's Report – see page 10

DCM Reports – see page 14

Unfinished Business:

1) Approve 2017 Dates to Remember – Sara P, Area Chair

Discussion centered around the fact that the August Area Committee meeting is not required according to Area Guidelines, but has become part of the norm.

Items of concern were if we have to pay for the meeting space even if we don't use it and what the deadline would be for cancelling.

Another point was that meeting in August is vital to the unity of the Area Committee.

Perhaps we could have an Area Committee workshop if a meeting isn't needed.

Motion: to cancel the August meeting.

Motion: to refer to the Structures & Guidelines Committee that the meeting in August can be an optionally scheduled meeting and can add a year in advance at that time.

Motion from Bob M: page 12, Article V Section 4 be amended to add "one extra meeting may be held in August." Jeff D 2nd.

Discussion followed.

Bob M: I respectfully withdraw the motion, Jeff D respectfully accepts.

Motion: Kim R – p 12 Art V sec 4 of the Area 74 Guidelines be amended to read as follows: Area Committee meetings will be held 4 times per year at Delegate’s Workshop, Spring & Fall Conferences. The remaining one will be held the month of December. A fifth tentative Area Committee Meeting will be scheduled in August. The final confirmation of the tentative meeting will be determined based on the Area’s unfinished business.

Gayle Z 2nd.

Discussion: none

Vote by substantial unanimity

Y- 23, N – 3

Minority opinion: should not the full Assembly be involved in the discussion?

A: Yes, it gets brought to the Assembly if the Area Committee is in favor of it.

Does anyone from majority wish to change their vote? **No. Motion passed with 92%.**

New Business:

1) Approve March 11, 2017 Delegate’s Workshop Agenda – Sara P, Area Chair –

Area Committee does not set the agenda for the Delegate’s workshop. The Area Committee does meet afterwards. ACM will happen directly after.

Derek: fine with agenda as written. I may have a “hot list” of items that I think deserve a little more consideration.

2) Discussion of Braille Service Manual – Derek T, Delegate

I received this for our Area to possibly support this matter. Read from letter by Kirk F,

“Hello fellow delegates:

‘I wondered why somebody didn't do something, then I realized, I am somebody.’

- Author Unknown -

Our Fellowship does not produce a Braille A.A. Service Manual.

The September issue of National Geographic magazine had an informative article about modern medicine's achieving sight for the blind. It also revealed there are some 230 million blind folks worldwide. We have members in the Fellowship who are blind and who wish to do general service.

Among the attendees at a 2013 G.S.R. orientation was a man I had seen before at general service functions, conventions, conferences, etc. Now, here he was at our area assembly as an elected G.S.R.. He was blind.

G.S.R.'s are asked to become familiar with the A.A. Service Manual. At the orientation, the blind man asked if he too might obtain a Braille service manual in order to fulfill his service obligation to his group. I replied that I would order him a Braille A.A. Service Manual from our area Literature Committee.

Our area meets in assembly every-other-month. At the next assembly (two months later), I was collecting service pieces from the literature table to distribute to our new G.S.R.'s. I asked our literature chairman if he had the Braille A.A. Service Manual I had ordered. He replied: "I ordered one, but *they* told me *we don't make Braille service manuals.*" I was stunned. Here is a service organization that provides all sorts of tools, books, pamphlets, calendars, handouts but no service Manual in Braille? The Fellowship conscientiously addresses the needs of newcomers, special needs, inmates, women, men, the LGBTQ community, minorities, the young, and the older folks, too. We address the native Americans, professionals, "Problems Other Than Alcohol," men and women in the armed services, and so on. We even have our Big

Book and at least two pamphlets in Braille. What we don't have is an adequate means for our blind members to "be in general service" with the same tools we enjoy as sighted members.

Well-meaning members have suggested, "Maybe if the service manual were on C/D, that would work. There has to be a C/D of the A.A. Service Manual." Imagine you and I, wishing to confirm an understanding or looking up a phrase found only in the A.A. Service Manual. We would simply flip to the section where we believe the information lies. If that does not work, we locate our pages by referencing the TABLE OF CONTENTS. Now, try relying on a C/D or a tape recording. Tapes and compact disks require a protracted hunt from beginning to end of the C/D or tape to find that one particular phrase or paragraph. And each time the blind wishes to find a word or phrase, he/she must scour the compact disk. This is an arduous task even for the dedicated.

The A.A. Service Manual

Chapter Two

The Group and Its G.S.R. (S26)

- They learn everything they can about the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts and are familiar with this manual the books. . .
(emphasis added)

I do not know how many members in the Fellowship are blind. Ten percent (10%) of Americans are visually impaired. Corrective lens and eyeglasses help most of those folks. Available data says that 1,300,000 Americans are legally blind. How many members in A.A. are blind? Of those members who are blind, how many would be in general service? All we can do is guess. No one, not the General Service Board, you or I, knows; rest assured there are blind members of the Fellowship. How many of our blind members desire to be in general service? When the General Service Conference achieved substantial unanimity in approving a book for publication to serve the agnostics/atheists, the Conference did not concern itself about the *number* of agnostics/atheists who might choose to purchase that book. In fact, the number of people in the intended audience is really of no consequence. The number is not even mentioned. No one asks, "How many atheists are in the Fellowship?"

We don't ask for a number because the number is not nor should it be a determining factor. An expressed need from members is the impetus necessary to approve the request for a new piece of literature related to the program and/or service, especially when two or more areas make the request. The request relating to blind members is a request for a format change (print to Braille) of existing literature.

With no real knowledge of how to go about getting a request before the Conference as an agenda item, I began asking how to go about getting the issue of providing service materials for blind alcoholics who want to be in general service on the Conference agenda. Sage advice given to me went like this: "Get as many eyeballs as possible to ask for the proposed agenda item."

I submitted the proposal to the area in which I do general service work, and they unanimously adopted the language. The adopted motion asked the Conference to consider making available a Braille A.A. Service Manual available. I next asked the seated delegates from the two adjoining areas to propose language to their respective assemblies. One area achieved substantial unanimity with minor word changes. The other area did not.

I forwarded the request from two areas for a Braille version of the A.A. Service Manual to our General Service Office. The hope was that a request from two areas would make it to the appropriate committee for consideration and make it to the Conference floor itself. Weeks passed, and I heard nothing.

I spoke with our Conference Coordinator and was directed to A.A.W.S. publications. I spoke with helpful members of A.A.W.S. publications staff less than a half-dozen times over

maybe a six-month period to check on any progress related to our request for a Conference agenda item. This is an experience you must not miss.

In a round-a-bout way, I received word that the request was not really a request for a publication; rather, I was informed, this was a petition for a *format change*. The service manual already exists; so the need was for the manual to be formatted in Braille.

I spoke at length with the chairman of that year's Conference Committee on Literature. He was "for" the item's being placed on the agenda for the committee he was chairing. The request never made it to the Conference committee or the Conference. The General Service Board reviewed the request and relegated it to the "unfunded projects" list. To this day I have never received a coherent reply as to why the request from two areas was sent to A.A. purgatory. . .the unfunded projects list.

So here we are: more than half way through 2016 in a service organization that has helped countless thousands of people over a period that spans more than eighty-one years. Yet, the blind in our Fellowship remain denied the tools they need for full participation in general service work.

I was verbally (nothing in writing) informed that the project was viewed as being cost-prohibitive by the board and that service manuals in Braille are not widely in demand. Here is where you might choose to participate. Having two areas' requesting an agenda item is apparently not compelling enough for the G.S.B to send a request to the Conference for their consideration. .

My request is for you also to send in a request for a Braille A.A. Service Manual from your area to reach the eyes of the Conference to "afford a reliable cross section of A.A. opinion for this purpose." The whole issue of "demand" and/or "need" is deceptively appealing. At the core of the pronouncement of "no demand" lies an assumed proposition that is not founded in fact. We

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3. *Conference Relation to A.A.*: The Conference will act for A.A. in perpetuation and guidance of its world services. . .

4. *Conference Relation to the A.A. Headquarters*: The Conference will replace the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, who formerly functioned as guides and advisors to the General Service Board and its related service corporations. The Conference will be expected to afford a

know there are blind members in the Fellowship. Can we presume that blind members of A.A. have a desire to do general service work proportional to sighted members? It would seem we risk practicing a principle which is a bar against all information. . .contempt prior to investigation. Was there a *demand* for automobiles before the horseless carriage became available? The supposition of "build it and they will come" is closer to reality than theorizing that demand simply doesn't exist.

G.S.O./A.A.W.S. claimed that the cost to re-format our A.A. Service Manual into Braille would be \$27,000. Items they included in that cost estimate were neither provided nor explained. The items A.A.W.S. included in its cost projection must have been substantial because there is a four-fold disparity in costs between the stated cost from an actual Braille printer and the quote from World Services.

The Big Book is available in Braille format, and the business that re-formatted the Big Book is located in Philadelphia. At the time I first inquired about a service manual in Braille, a friend in the Fellowship happened to be traveling to Philadelphia on business. I asked my friend to visit that Braille printing house if his time permitted. I wanted to know about the cost/difficulty of formatting the A.A. Service Manual in Braille. My friend did indeed speak with an employee of the printing house. In fact, he spoke to the man who created and conveyed the quote for this project to A.A.W.S Publishing. The man remembered having sent the quote for a Braille service

manual to A.A.W.S. Publishing months before my friend asked him about cost. It seems the actual dollar cost of converting print words to Braille is nominal. The costs emanate from formatting graphics (charts, etc.) into Braille.

Once the initial conversion to Braille is made, ongoing conversions can be made at a nominal in cost. The quote given to my friend was \$7,000 to convert (for the first time) the entire A.A. Service Manual including graphics from print to Braille.

Annual changes to the service manual will, for the foreseeable future, be every other year beginning in 2017. Costs to change words from print to Braille is minimal. Costs to change graphics is also not cost prohibitive. And I question how often we actually do change the graphics?

The request for a Braille A.A. Service Manual was directed to and meant to be debated by the Conference. The request never made it past the General Service Board and now languishes on the unfunded projects list.

I ask you and your area to support the request for a Braille A.A. Service Manual. And then I ask that you send your request to the General Service Board and to your regional trustee. Our General Service Board members need to know that this request does have merit. I have several (as in a lot) pages of e-mails and other correspondence regarding this undertaking. I will forward the background material to you upon receipt of your request.

On a last note, this is not just a matter of "charity" or sympathy for the blind. In my opinion, the blind can often "see" things that many of us miss. They have something to offer to all of us through service to AA. Congress itself recognized that the disabled in our society can make valuable contributions if they are accommodated. With that understanding, Congress adopted the Americans with Disabilities Act in the early 1990's. Blind members have a "disability," but they also have the "ability" to touch the lives of other alcoholics, whether sighted or blind. All these members need to do the work are the tools that the rest of us have and use, and they should not have to beg us for this accommodation. Just imagine a world without Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, or Helen Keller in it. All of them found a way to bless us with their gifts, and the blind members of AA can do the same if afforded the opportunity.

In His service,

/s/

Kirk Faupel, Delegate
Central Michigan Intra Area
P/65 A/32 Grapevine
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P.O. Box 283

Saline, Michigan 48176-0283 Delegate Area 32, Panel 65"

Most discussion was in favor of publishing a Braille Service Manual.

Motion: I recommend that the Area 74 Delegate prepare a letter of support in favor of publishing the Service Manual in Braille. Jason 2nd. Will be put at the end of new business.

3) MCYPAA Pamphlet – Terri B, Public Information Chair (*flyer attached separately*)

I received the following email from Andy W:

“ Fri, 11/18/16, Andrew Webster <andy.mcypaac@gmail.com>
wrote:

From: Andrew Webster <andy.mcpyaac@gmail.com>

Subject: MCPYAA-Outreach Flyer

To: webmaster@area74.org,
pi@area74.org

Cc: "Emily Y." <Emily@mcpaa37.org>

Date: Friday, November 18, 2016, 1:35 PM

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Andrew Webster I am a recovered Alcoholic member of A.A., and also a member MCYPAA (Michigan Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Advisory Council. The Advisory Council has recently developed a tri-fold outreach pamphlet to better inform people (A.A. members and Public) about MCYPAA and have discussed including a general contact of Area 74 on the rear of the pamphlet. (Please see the digital copy referring to your area website contact) Before we included this we wanted to check if this was appropriate in keeping with traditions, Especially six, ten, & eleven; we definitely are not trying to ask for an endorsement or affiliation but rather cooperation and contact references to better outreach not only MCYPAA but the message of recovery that started with Alcoholics Anonymous and continues to work to this day, and in doing so we see the importance of issues being handled through the traditions and guidance and experience of others familiar with and better informed than us. Also, in keeping with tradition seven MCYPAA at no time would ever contact Area 74 for monetary support whether with this pamphlet or any other matter. (However if committees/Area 74. would like it as a reference we would be happy to provide it) Thank you for your time, in Best Regards and Service, Andy Webster”

Discussion centered around if it does violate AA Traditions. They don't want the flyer on our website. They want to include Area 74 contact info on their flyer.

4) Discussion of “How We Close Our Service Meetings” – Fred M, DCM 16

The Lord's Prayer in AA

From the early meetings of the 1930's AA has closed its meetings with the Lord's prayer. Today many AA members are afraid of offending someone.

AA wasn't begun in a Mosque, Synagogue, Shinto shrine, Buddhist temple, we didn't come out of Unitarians, Atheists or Humanists meetings. Rather we came out of an Ecumenical Christian revival movement (the Oxford Group) in the thirties. The Rev. Sam Shoemaker helped us with the basic principles of this program and was considered by Bill W. as one of the Co-founders of AA.

Before the AA name was adopted the fellowship was sometimes referred to as the “James club” after the Bible's book of James. AA's Christian roots get little acknowledgment in our meetings today. Each time we pray the Lord's prayer we connect with God, each other, our early understanding of God and our earliest members of AA. This is exhibiting real unity.

Dr. Foster Kennedy, neurologist: “This organization of Alcoholics Anonymous call on the two of the greatest reservoirs of power known to man, religion and the instinct for association with one's fellows...the herd instinct.” (Big Book Appendices III) There are two forces required for successful recovery one earthly and one from the heavens. Reducing or removing one greatly reduces the effectiveness of the program.

Most of our current membership takes great comfort in that minute of unity at the close of our meeting not so with our unity statement. We may not want to offend anyone with the Lord's Prayer, but are we offending God?

This prayer is as important a part of this meeting as anything we do here. If we just came together and prayed, in my mind we would have had a successful event. If we fail to pray collectively, you can be sure that we'll fail to pray by ourselves. Henrietta Seiberling prayed in earnest for Dr. Bob's sobriety for six months prior to his getting sober. When she heard Bill W. on the phone, she knew that was an answer to her prayers.

Though times have changed, human nature, this disease and the principles used to treat it don't. Dr. Bob understood both the disease the nature of the alcoholic and it's treatment. He had become a fisher of men. He knew how to catch and clean a fish.

Taken From (Dr Bob and the Good Old Timers page143,144).

"Doc Smith came in later and took over. He sat on the edge of my bed and said, 'Well, what do you think of all this?'

Then he paused and looked at me doubtfully, "I don't know if you're ready yet. You're kind of young.'

"I was down to 135 pounds , no job, no clothes, and no money. I didn't know how much more ready I could be," recalled Clarence, " Still I had to convince them I was ready. Then he asked, "Do you believe in God young fella?" (When he called me Clarence, I knew I was in trouble.)

"What does that have to do with it ?'

"Everything," he said.

"I guess I do."

"Guess nothing! Either you do or you don't,"

" Yes I do."

"that's fine," Dr. Bob replied. Now we're getting someplace. All right, get out of bed and on your knees. We're going to pray."

"I don't know how to pray"

"I guess you don't, but that's all right. Just follow what I say, and that will do for now."

" so I did what I was ordered to do" Clarence said, "there was no suggestion."

Even though I said I was an atheist when I came into AA, I kept coming back. I came, came to, and came to believe. The fact that my Home Group always closed with the Lord's prayer made an impact on me. After a year I finally surrendered, God and recovery were waiting for me.

Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference always be seen as the chief symbol of this cherished liberty (Concept XII). How is this going to happen without prayer, or as they said in the early meetings "guidance?"

The Lord's Prayer may make some people uncomfortable, but dropping it is unplugging AA from it's root and will likely cause AA to become something we and our co-founders never imagined or intended.

Bill's comment regarding people being offended by the Lord's Prayer was to the effect, "get over it!"

Discussion varied. Most people were in favor, however, some people felt it should be up to the Chair how to end the meeting and we shouldn't dictate that the meeting has to end in the Lord's Prayer.

5) Discussion of "What can be done when there is absenteeism of a committee member" – Sheryl D, Finance Chair

In this position, I have learned the importance of communication, patience, tolerance, love. What do you do if a committee member were to resign and then there is no Assembly for a long time? Can the committee appoint someone? How much attendance

do we require for the committee? If there is non-participation, how long do we let it go on? Just wants to bring it up for discussion.

Discussion centered on various guidelines, what it says in the Service Manual, and whether or not committee members understand what is expected of them, and that this problem is not unique to AA.

6) Letter to Area Committee regarding 2016 Fall Conference – Michelle Z, Secretary

“I’m writing this letter to express some concerns about the Fall Conference in Turtle** Lake. Before I state my issues, I would like to congratulate the conference planning committee for putting on a good conference under less than ideal circumstances. I understand they had some special challenges in providing a venue. It was obvious that a lot of hard work and creativity went into pulling it off and it seemed like the people involved worked very well together. The banquet meal was far superior to any other AA banquet I’ve attended.

However, there were traditions that were violated both in the conference flyer and the placemats at the banquet table.

Had I taken the time to study the flyer when it first came out, I might have spoken up then, but I was only concerned about when, where, how much, and booking a hotel room. I did not notice how the speaker was highlighted with credentials such as: “Speaker at AA Roundups...Master of Divinity Degree...Pastor in United Methodist Churches...Co-author...author.”

The problems with listing this speaker’s qualifications are many: there is an implied endorsement (Tradition Six) of his books, not to mention his church. The only requirement for someone to speak at an AA event or speaker meeting is the fact that he/she is an AA member. The listing of credentials looks like promotion, not attraction (Tradition Eleven). For future events, I think it would be best to state simply a first name, last initial, where the speaker is from, and that the speaker is an AA or AI-anon speaker. Nothing else is necessary.

My other concern is the placemats on the banquet tables. One side was the speaker’s personal take on AA – unnecessary, at the very least. The other side was an advertisement for his lecture series. This ad implies endorsement of him as a “Director of Spiritual Guidance,” of the treatment center he works for, and his book that he is selling. Again, that displayed promotion as well as implied affiliation with an outside entity.

As an AA member and an Area 74 servant, I cannot remain silent when I see such violations of the AA Traditions presumably being sanctioned by an entire Area. All of us present – whether willingly and knowingly or not – colluded in muddying the waters of the AA program, which was a grave disservice and misrepresentation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We can’t undo what’s been done. However, we can take this opportunity to better educate ourselves, the people we sponsor and our home group members and districts, about the necessity of the Traditions and Concepts (not to mention the Steps). We all need to know why they’re important and what happens when they’re not followed.

Although I am upset about this situation, I also see it as a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us. I have started re-reading the Traditions portion of the 12 and 12, and the Service Manual and Concepts. Perhaps we need workshops on the Traditions throughout the Area. The importance of the Traditions would be a great sharing session topic. Each Tradition could be its own topic as well. I think a thorough group conscience is also called for.

I hope you all understand that the purpose of this letter is not to blame any individual or group. I assume the violations of Traditions were done innocently. I write this letter with love for AA, Area 74, the people in it, and the people who will join us in the future – a future where AA still works because we work it. ALL of it: Steps, Traditions, Concepts.

Thank you for this opportunity,
Michelle Z, Area 74 Secretary

**In the letter I sent out prior to the meeting, I mistakenly wrote “Rice” instead of “Turtle”.
However, when I read it at the meeting, I said, “Turtle.”

Most discussion was in support of the letter. The point was made that it should have been brought to the Area Assembly, and that the Conference Report had already been accepted. The Delegate read the opening paragraph in the Service Manual on the Area Committee. Some people thought it was worth further discussion.

- 7) **Gayle Z – Archives** – Announcement, motion they reworded the Past Delegate’s Sharing Session Motion. Brought copies so DCMs can take it back to their groups and GSRs can see it for the next Assembly.

8) **Braille Service Manual: Derek T.**

Motion: I recommend that the Area 74 Delegate prepare a letter of support in favor of publishing the Service Manual in Braille. Jason 2nd.

Previous discussion was mostly in favor. The point was made that it should not be the Delegate, but the Assembly that brings it forward.

Y 26, N 2

Minority opinion:

Bad timing. Adding an item to the agenda created a controversy at the GSC the last time.

Nobody in the majority wished to change their vote. **92.9% motion passed.**

Next Area Committee meeting is March 11, 2017 in Three Lakes, WI

Thanks to Kurt Alt DCM from District10 for providing the refreshments.

Jeff motioned to close the meeting, 2nd.

Meeting closed at 3 pm with The Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Z, Area Secretary

Area 74 Area Committee Meeting Agenda

Saturday December 10, 2016

Reiter Center – Three Lakes, WI

10:00 AM – Housekeeping

Open Meeting

Approve minutes from September 18, 2016

Delegates Report

DCM reports

12:00-ish - Lunch

Unfinished Business

2017 Dates to Remember – Sara P. (Area Chair)

New Business

Discussion of Braille Service Manual – Derek T. (Delegate)

MCYPAA Pamphlet – Terri B. (Public Information Chair)

Discussion of ‘How We Close Our Service Meetings’ – Fred M. (DCM 16)

Discussion of ‘What can be done when there is absenteeism of a committee member?’ – Sheryl D.

Next Area Committee March 11, 2017, Three Lakes, WI

5:00 PM Close Meeting

Delegate’s Report:

Thank you for allowing me to share on my participation since our last Area Committee Meeting in September. I will also provide a brief overview of information I’ve gleaned from the most recent board weekend and let you know where & when I will be next.

Overview of Activities and Participation

I attended and participated in the District 8 Homegroup Workshop on October 8 in Wausau. The turnout was great and I was honored to serve on the panel with several other Area 74 trusted Servants. The best part was the take home frozen homemade apple pie. That really worked out because I had a house full of company that weekend.

I spoke at the Kaukauna Intergroup in October 22. Thank you Char and Brent for the hospitality and for making the lodging and transportation arrangements. I also attended the Hour Sunday group on Sunday morning at 7 a.m. in Combined Locks. I am rarely up at 7 a.m. and I am so glad I said yes to our Treasurer Kim R’s invitation.

I attended and participated in the Area 74 Assembly on October 29 here in Three Lakes.

I attended the District 20 meeting in November and also the planning committee meeting for the 2017 Spring Conference being held in District 20. I was blown away by the level of preparation for the Conference and also by the involvement and participation of the groups in planning. Kudos to Dean C. for his tireless work as DCM and as Conference Chair.

I have participated in all monthly Area 74 Finance Committee conference calls since our last Area Committee Meeting

I have participated in all Area 74 Structures and Guidelines conference calls.

I have also participated in East Central Regional Delegate teleconferences with our ECR Trustee, Bill Farnsworth. These calls have been rather sporadic with attendance and a few technical glitches, but they are still worthwhile to connect with the other Delegates in our region.

I have responded to several Delegate sharing requests. I'd like to thank Barry B. and Terri B. for responding to specific requests for sharing from CPC and PI chairs on one of the Delegate sharing requests. I have also responded to all of the various announcements from Delegates around North America introducing their newly-elected Delegates and their Alternates. Our Alternate Delegate, Sara, and I have been sharing the duties - I send e-mails to welcome the Delegates and she emails a welcome to their newly-elected Alternate. Thank you, Sara! I also fielded a Delegate sharing request whereby I was asked to bring to my Area the possibility of considering as an agenda item the development and publication of a braille service manual. I have asked Sara to add this discussion item to New Business today.

As many of you know on the Area Committee, I have been forwarding much information (actually *all* the information) I receive from GSO.

I have also written articles for the October, November and December editions of our area newsletter, the *Now & Then*. I know that some of you are reading it because you have provided feedback. The feedback is very helpful, especially for an alcoholic who fails to see himself as he really is. Thank you for your feedback!

Outside of my Area 74 responsibilities, I attended a recovery retreat in November and a Concepts retreat in December, where I presented on Concept 7. Both of these events, I believe, better prepare me to serve the groups of Area 74 and AA as a whole.

News and Information

I still have plenty of Final Reports from the 66th General Service Conference. Feel free to take as many as you wish today

As many of you may have seen, the Publishing Department at AAWS sent out an e-mail regarding the availability of the now outdated 2015-16 Service Manuals. Thank you all for your quick responses. I ended up ordering 144 at a price of \$0.31 each. What a deal! So if you asked for some, please see me today at some point. These are a garret handout for a service workshop or to give to sponsees.

The Board weekend was at the end of October and I have an unapproved copy of the Board weekend minutes if you would like to review. Delegates are asked not to distribute them until approved, but please see me if you are interested in reviewing them.

Grapevine

There is a special running through December 31 - Free Shipping

The latest Grapevine book *Our 12 Traditions* is available

2017 Calendar and pocket planners are available

Check it all out at www.aagrapevine.org

AAWS Highlights

Finance #'s: The G.S.O. nine-month unaudited financial report revealed that net sales were \$9,978,462 or \$29,448 (.3%) more than budget; contributions were \$618,638 more than budget. Expenses for the nine-month period were \$690,129 less than budget. Net profit for the nine months was \$800,145 compared with a budgeted loss of \$662,152 and a nine month 2015 loss of \$283,716.

It was noted that contributions got off to a very slow start in 2016 with January being approximately \$113,000 below budget; however, things have improved each month as the year has progressed with each month this year reporting more contributions than the same month of 2015.

Publishing Gross Sales: September sales are ahead of budget with actual gross sales at \$1,214,423, which is a \$61,845 (5.37%) positive variance against budget of \$1,152,578. For 2016 through the month of September, gross sales are above estimate: \$10,192,281 actual sales vs. estimate of \$10,133,413, which is \$58,868 over budget.

Missouri Area 38 will host the first National Corrections Conference in 2017

The World Service Meeting was held in Rye Brook, NY in late October with 60 delegates from 41 countries or linguistic zones. The 2018 World Service Meeting will be held in Durban, South Africa.

Open Positions

There is a call for an Appointed Committee Member to the Trustees' Committee on Public Information. Some qualities desired:

- 5 years sobriety
- Someone with expertise in social media/networks and online communication
- AA service experience
- Attendance at committee meetings in NY during Board weekends and participation on conference calls

There is a call for an Appointed Committee Member for the Trustees' Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities. Some quality desired:

- Professional or AA experience working with people with physical, emotional or mental challenges
- 5 years sobriety
- AA service experience

- Attendance at committee meetings in NY during Board weekends and participation on conference calls

Deadline for submission of completed resume sheets for both of the Appointed Committee Member positions is March 1, 2017. I did e-mail the announcement and associated resume forms. See me if you have questions.

Special Poll Vote

As many of you are aware, a special poll vote was conducted by the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference (or the General Service Board; the jury is still out). The special mail vote of Panel 65 and 66 Conference members was as follows: "It is recommended that the 69th General Service Conference be held April 7-13, 2019, instead of on the previously approved dates of April 28-May 4, 2019. These dates do not conflict with any significant holiday".

The initial vote was conducted over the dates November 14-18. There was an opportunity for minority opinion and reconsideration. I did e-mail out to the members of the ACM and tried to keep you abreast of things as the process moved along. I want to thank everyone for participating and for the feedback you provided on such short notice.

I voted against the recommendation for the reasons I outlined to you all in my initial e-mail. The process did not allow for discussion. I did not think enough information was provided and the information that was provided was confusing. I also did some research and found that the poll vote did not follow the procedure outlined in the service manual (2 weeks v. 4 days). And the main reason for voting against it was that the decision to change venues (and subsequently the dates of the 2019 GSC) was based on the fact that one panel of Delegates would be missing out on the "NY experience", whatever that is. I saw very little of NYC while I was at the GSC. And that is not why I was in NYC to begin with. I can go to NYC anytime I want. I was there to serve Area 74 and AA as a whole, not go on a NYC junket. I also have concerns that this method of doing business could become a pattern and/or a precedent. This is really not the way we do business. It is difficult to arrive at an informed collective conscience without discussion. I have learned through this process that there is a reason this method of doing business is used only in matters of *grave emergency*. The 2015 poll vote caused a lot of strife at the open on the 66th General Service Conference and I suspect that this poll vote will cause even more issues at the 67th GSC.

Upcoming Events and Other Notes

I will be attending the Conference of Delegates Past and Present in Perrysburg, OH, which will be February 10-12, 2017. I am assisting in the coordination of a group of us going down together, possibly with a bus. It looks like our group will include our East Central Regional Trustee, Marty L. and our Trustee-at-Large U.S. candidate, Len D. They will be presenting themselves as candidates at the Conference. I have brought a few flyers for anyone interested. I will be working with Laura G. from Area 56 on the mock conference committee meeting.

It is really hard to believe that the first year of my term is coming to a close. It seems like it just started! I am super excited to be a second-year Delegate. I have heard the second year tends to be a bit smoother than the first. I am looking forward to again serving on the Literature Committee. My understanding is we will have a very full agenda in 2017 as well. I will forward the 67th General Service Conference agenda items as soon as they come out in mid-February. I am looking forward

to working with you again at the Delegate's Workshop on March 11, 2017 and again at the Winter Assembly on April 8.

I have received my 'loving invitation' to participate in the 67th General Service Conference. I will be doing the opening reading at the opening session of the General Service Conference on April 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Tait

Panel 66 Area 74

Northern Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula of Michigan

906.203.1420

djtjune3@hotmail.com

Questions:

Bob M – Thank you for your report. Contributions are up – how are Area contributions in comparison (Area 74 cont. to GSO)? (Derek: I don't have the numbers)

When I was Delegate in 2000-1, we went to NYC so we could go to the office, meet the staff, ask questions. Is that not being considered anymore? Done in past so there's no distance between the office and the rest of the fellowship. Seems like we don't even need to go to NY anymore unless they put that back in.

Derek: My committee didn't have time to get the work done, so we had to do the office tour in a short amount of time. Didn't get enough time to see everything.

Diane: Is there a distancing occurring between NY and us? Article in Box 459 – blue people logo has been copywritten by AA in 2006. I knew nothing about it. Did I miss it? Plus there's disabled people in icon but we're not publishing a Braille service manual?

Derek: I do remember reporting about the copywrite on the icon more recently like within the last year.

DCM Reports:

District 01

District 01 monthly GSR district meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Central Office in Green Bay, 1270 Main Street. Over the last two months about 3-4 new GSRs have been attending the meeting. Attendance is currently about 30 people including committee chairs, officers, and GSRs. We've had some people leave positions (some due to moving out of the area) but filled all of them almost immediately.

An opportunity to carry the message of AA has developed in our District with the planned opening of a new treatment facility in 2017. I received an email from the regional clinical director requesting to work with us on providing either introductory meetings or speakers for an treatment facility; possibly beginning after the 1st of the year. Our CPC chair will be coordinating with this new facility to learn more about what they are looking for and to talk to them about what we can offer.

We are also currently planning our next intergroup. It is on Saturday, January 28th at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 210 S. Oneida Street in Green Bay. At that event we hope to gather willing volunteers to assist with planning the 2018 Spring Conference.

We continue to work on improving the hotline and wish to thank members of District 03 who provided useful information about their experience.

Nate K. DCM District 01

District 02 -- Char

District 02 is located about 2 hours 40 minutes SE of here (Three Lakes). We continue to work on our guideline and will vote on grammatical changes December 11, 2016. In January we will discuss the possibility of hosting an Area 74 conference in 2019. We will be having a GSR workshop January 28th at Prince of Peace Church in Appleton, WI. All are welcome to attend. We have an intergroup tonight. Dinner is at 6pm. This meeting is scheduled to 5pm. May we get through our work efficiently and effectively.

Char V.
DCM-District 02

District 03

*District 03 has 11 active groups. Three of those being "Open" meetings.

*Our district has an open speaker meeting every 2nd Saturday of each month. The meeting is currently held at St. Luke's Church in Wisconsin Rapids. We are looking at possibly moving the meeting to the Wisconsin Rapids Alano club. This meeting is put on by the Tuesday Night Working With Others group.

*We had an AODA counselor (and alcoholic) speak with our Tuesday Night Working With Others group regarding the possibility of our district members cooperating with the Wood county drug court. We are looking into how we might be able to help.

*The Wisconsin Rapids Alano club had a new entrance with a ramp which now makes the meetings at the club handicapped accessible.

Stephen Webster
DCM District 03

District 04

District 04 is comprised of Portage and western Waupaca counties with 29 groups. Our monthly GSR meetings are held in Amherst on the first Thursday of every month. With the filling of the Picnic Chair position at our last meeting, all of our District service positions are filled.

Our PI/CPC committee has been very active with various activities including switching us over to freedom voice phone service, and the making of newcomer packets filled with various pamphlets and meeting lists to be distributed out to all the groups of the District. Literature/Grapevine has staffed all District events and continues to meet all our groups

Literature needs. Archives has also put on displays for Inter-groups within the District and completed an oral history of one of our old timers. Corrections continues to staff a meeting a week in both the Waupaca and Portage county jails. Treatment is working on getting literature out to Nursing homes within the District and continues to host a AA orientation at both the inpatient and outpatient Treatment center once a month for each. Our Webmaster continues to stay on top of all events and has successfully removed spam from our District mailing list. Our Finance committee prepared the 2017 budget and it was passed unanimously without discussion. (A little different than the Area lol).

We recently created an Ad-Hoc committee to take a look at our guidelines to fill in gaps and possibly address issues such as how our Literature funds are to be handled. We have 4 inter-groups planned for 2017 with a new one coming by our Sunday morning meeting in March. Waupaca hosted a new inter-group November 5th this year and was a great success with too much great food, great speakers and attended by 100 or so. Our annual Alcathon continues with meetings every hour on the hour starting at 8 pm New Year's eve.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff D. DCM 04

District 05 – Bryon B

We have been working on the list of meetings sent to us from the Registrar. There are 101 meetings on our District 05 meeting directory. Expect an updated list of meetings back to the registrar in the next few months.

The Fall Conference 2017 planning committee has been meeting once a month. Speakers have been selected and the final draft for the registration flyer will be out soon. The committee has also been considering on line registration. If anyone has nay experience with this please contact me.

One of our GSR's has brought to our attention a web service to help locate AA meetings. The web site is meetingguide.org. We will be exploring this service and are considering listing District 05's meetings on that service. It is free and is AA oriented.

In Service,

Bryon B

District 05 DCM

District 07 – Diane D.

We meet at 5 pm on the third Sunday of each month at the Alano Club of Marshfield. Although attendance is still very low, those attending are eager to serve and we continue moving forward.

1. The GSRs have finalized a review of District Guidelines which includes topics.
 - a. Reimbursements/Stipends Guidelines
 - b. Election Guidelines
 - c. Guidelines for District 07 Sponsored Events

2. Approval was given to purchase pamphlets to create 'Health Care Professional' bundles to give to visitors who have an interest in AA because of their pursued profession.
3. We have established our District 'Dates to Remember', working around Area 74 dates.
4. District 07 will not be having a Fall or Winter Fest this year, for the first time in ages. Funds are available, but no group or individuals stepped forward to accept responsibility of managing the event.
5. Services in progress are:
 - a. Distributing updated meeting lists to organizations, facilities, businesses, services. This was done a year ago, where we created a list to work from for replacing stock.
 - b. Confirming there are or are not Jail meetings in all the counties that District 07 touches. So far, one county is without (Clark Co.) and a couple GSRs are working on possible solutions.
 - c. Still working on Archives in several District 07 communities.
 - d. On-going discussion regarding the creation of a 'Newcomers Bundle'; will include pamphlets and a cover sheet of information.

District 8 – Joe W.

Our district covers Northern Marathon and Southern Lincoln Counties. We have around 39 active groups in our district. Since our last report our district has held a Home group workshop. We feel it was a success with the help from several members from the Area. We would like to thank all who came to Wausau. I feel that since the workshop it gave our district a boost. As we have had a few Home groups come forward with New GSR's attending our district meetings, which is held on the first Tuesday of every month at Mount View Care Center at 7:00 pm. We are also working on building a new web site for our district. It should be up and running soon. At our last district meeting we talked about hosting a future conference. With strong interest, we feel that we would put a bid together for the fall conference of 2018. I feel that our district is ready and willing to take on the task of hosting a conference. This last year has been quite a learning experience for all our new GSR's and myself included. I feel that with every month that goes by we are gaining more and more home groups which in turn make our district stronger.

Joe Wallace

DCM DISTICT 08

District 9 – Norm F.

Our district is in a bit of distress. Of 39 meetings (4 in Corrections), 1 meeting cancelled, our Alternate DCM moved out of district, 6 committee chairs are left open, archives chair resigned 3 months ago, I retrieved the archives. In desperate need of officers and chairs, I've been to 27 of these meetings since I've been DCM and trying to get people interested in service is like pulling teeth, but they have 20-25 people there. District newsletter is now up and running, called the Chronicle. Treasurer John N is running it. Have put word out that nominations are in Aug & elections in Sep. I don't want it to go dark, it's a wonderful district with wonderful people.

District 10 – Kurt, Alternate

Working on meetings info to Registrar. AA hotline phone – each group is assigned a month to take the phone.

District 13 – Sonny

Ashland Bayfield counties have 23 meetings. We have 4 members at District meetings Met in October and December and won't meet again until February.

District 16 – Fred –

Are we there yet? We're showing some growth up here in the great white north. Progress, although slow, is still happening. By fits and starts the meetings are growing both in effectiveness and numbers.

District meetings have been regular, effective, but attendance is still only average. Our jail meetings have been doing well and are beginning to show early signs of recovery. The Newsletter has been helpful and there has been a renewed interest in service. Our October Fest was a success with over fifty people in attendance. Our new alt.-DCM Zully has spread his enthusiasm for AA and a desire to carry the message in our District.

I would like to give a special thanks to Pete Wagner for some historical background on sponsorship. Hopefully what AA's did in the past will be helpful in the not too distant future. We will be trying to glean from how things were done in the past so we can more effectively carry the message in each of our communities, rather than relying mainly on the professionals. We're not there yet but there is light on the horizon.

Yours in Service,

Fred Martin

DCM

District 20

District 20 is located in east central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We have 22 meetings covering 3200 square miles and every day of the week.

Last District meeting was November 19th. The District meeting was preceded by a Conference Planning Meeting. Next District meeting is December 17th.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussed purpose of prudent reserve. Decided that publishing meeting lists and getting DCM to Area assemblies was the bare minimum. Increased prudent reserve after that discussion.
- Alternate DCM resigned. Elected a new DCM. Change form has been submitted.
- Developing a newcomer/CPC packet.
- Continue to review meeting lists to make sure area and GSO has the proper information.
- Workshop scheduled for October 7th 2017. Topic/location to be determined by groups.
- I have been involved in the Monthly DCM and PI Committee conference calls.

- Discussion on having a GSR workshop prior to district meetings. Left in the hands of the GSRs to determine.
- Spring 2017 Conference status.
 - Flyer on table.
 - Flyer includes motels that have given a discounted rate. Rooms are going fast.
 - Please get registrations in
 - Registration--\$18. Banquet--\$22. Stuffed chicken breasts and beef tips buffet.
 - We will have an onsite lunch available. Cost less than \$3.00 and we may actually furnish as part of registration.
 - Have decided to have a skit on Friday night

Joe: Sunday lunch? U-per pasties

District 21 – Ron - absent

District 21 includes Northern Houghton and Keweenaw counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The area has two universities with current enrolments of about 12,000, tourism is our major industry, and thus our recovery population is very transient. We strive to be available to all who study and visit here, be it the alcoholic in recovery, the alcoholic who still suffers, or their families and friends. Because of this, and because we have many self professed "double winners", we recognize and support two allied programs, Al-anon (two meetings) and ACOA (one meeting). We currently have 21 regularly scheduled meetings as our seasonal meetings have been discontinued until spring. We cooperate with Houghton County's drug court, as well as local residential treatment facilities and shelters, and although not in our district we continue to support A.A. meetings at Michigan Department of Corrections, Baraga Max.

Our 24 hour A.A. hotline is answered by Dial Help in Houghton, meetings are listed in our local newspaper, and meetings are mentioned on local radio stations, all free of charge. Our *abridged meeting schedule*, *A.A. pure*, can also be found on the Area 74 website.

Today we have a strong core group of 12 to 15 GSR's, chairpersons and officers, most with multiple responsibilities. We are currently working on next year's May 13th inter group, our newest woman's group is planning a retreat for early April, and we are discussing the possibility of a workshop or two during the summer and fall. As a service to all groups we have ordered and are stocking over twenty AA publications, plus an array of pamphlets. Bulk orders, with no shipping costs, keep literature prices low and many people happy. Since starting this about a year ago we have ordered and sold about \$2000.00 worth of literature.

I have reached out to all groups as DCM stressing financial responsibility and asking for their financial support, be it large or small. There has been considerable fall out due to Area 74's refusal to accept a donation from WICYPPA. The question most asked is why a registered group, whose donations are accepted by GSO, is shunned by Area 74? Members of WICY, MICY and ICCY, (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois) have weighed in on this subject and as a result almost all groups have voted to distribute their funds *only to the district and GSO*.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy *Sober* New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Schreiner, Area 74, District 21, DCM

District 23 – Jay H – District 23 – Jay H – I represent the GSRs of District 23. My verbal report which is typically given at this time has been given to the Area Secretary in advance, as required. I have been directed to cease giving verbal reports because District 23 has decided to follow the best practices as encapsulated in the "A.A. Service Manual" under "*The Area Assembly and Activities*", in order to expand the audience to include the full Assembly so that the GSRs can hear them; in doing so making it more inclusive, less exclusive. So, that from this point on, at least until January of 2018, I will refrain from giving verbal district reports to the ACM.

Written report:

The following areas represent where District 23 has been directing its energy to be of optimum service to our A.A. Groups in particular, and to Area 74 in general:

- I. The district's DCM recently attended the "*Eleventh Annual Concepts Retreat*" held in Westfield, WI –wherein he was joined by another interested district AA member; the former for the third time and the latter for his first time.
- II. District 23 continues to reach out to Districts 06, 12, 14, & 24 to offer help where we can to those districts which have become weak in Area 74 attendance and activities, as well as to those which remain inactive.
- III. Our "end of the year" district meeting held on Sunday 12/04/16 covered the following "New Business" agenda items, with the following results:
 - o Nominations and election of a District 23 Corrections Liaison person (which resulted in the appointment of Tom G. through unanimous group conscience decision)
 - o Formal closure of the "*2016 Fall Conference*" ad hoc planning committee was affected, with another round of gratitude offered for a job well done. The conference account was reported as closed by the conference treasurer, with all owed monies distributed as required.
 - o A letter of request from the Chetek Alano Club for listing District 24 AA group, NA group and Al-Anon group meetings on the Area 74/District 23 Webpage "Meetings" was discussed and appropriate action taken. Helpful suggestions were offered in place of honoring this request.
 - o The District 23 "*Annual Compilation Report – 2016*", due in January 2017 was discussed, with all contributing persons reminded.
 - o The proposed "*District 23 Meeting Schedule -2017*" was reviewed and approved. We stuck with our original, and very successful, 'experimental

model' of 2/3rd meetings in Rice Lake, WI (Eastern District Region) and 1/3rd in Siren, WI (Western District Region). This information was subsequently passed on to the “*Now & Then*” area newsletter.

- 93% of District 23's fall conference 'net revenue after expenses' distributions (\$984.21) were decided up-on through a consensus of group conscience. This was accomplished after a month-long consultation with all groups who send GSRs to attend our meetings (by all those who showed).

- IV. The District 23 GSR Committee Meetings continues to focus on creating the opportunity for groups, through their respective GSRs, and District Officers to explore further areas of service to our groups. The vehicle we have been using on our agenda to facilitate this activity is the open-ended “*What's on Your Mind*” format; wherein there is no pre-planned or directed topic for discussion – relying more on our Higher Power's presence to inspire relaxed conversation which might lead us into doing “*the next right thing*”. This activity has been very successful thus far, and we anticipate we'll have a number of new directions to follow in the near future.

“Thank You” for the Opportunity to Serve A.A.,

Jay Hands, DCM;

District 23/Area 74 – A.A.

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