

April 2021

Now & Then

Newsletter of Delegate Area 74

Northern Wisconsin & Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Volume 61

www.area74.org

Number 10

Co-Editors: Jeff C. and Michelle Z.

Email: area74newsletter@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

Hello Members of Area 74,

It is now April, only 17 days or so before the annual General Service Conference (GSC). Less than one month from writing this article. I am looking forward to the April 10 Assembly which will be hybrid and seeing many of you. More important I need to hear the voices of the groups through their General Service Representative (GSR) on these agenda items up for discussion at the conference. Many items to discuss such as changes to our beloved Big Book, 12 X 12 and many wording changes to our pamphlets and maybe new pamphlets. We are going to be discussing if we should change the preamble to reflect gender neutral terms. We also have potential changes to the Conference Charter, revisions of the Concept XI essay. Election of a new East Central Regional Trustee and a motion to censure the General Service Board. I believe there are 97 items spanning 13 committees. All the items as important as the next. We will have limited time to fully discuss some of the items. I ask that you have your statement and questions prepared ahead of time. We want to hear from as many GSRs as possible. I am hoping to start with Literature. The first question being: do we want to change the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Do we need a 5th Edition Big Book? Do we want a 5th Edition Big Book? Do we want to see the suggested changes to the 12 X 12? If you want the background on these questions, ask your GSR or District Committee member.

I was asked not too long ago, why I show up at Assemblies held in Three Lakes. The first thing that came to me was the incredible sunset I witnessed traveling home last year. This was 4 days after rigor mortis set in on one old-timer who was put to rest that day. He frequently used this term to describe when he would figure it out. I also remember being very agitated once after leaving an Assembly and asked a good friend why do we do this? He replied, so our grandkids have a chair if they need it. A simple reminder that packs a whole lot of meaning. That day I re-confirmed my willingness to be inconvenienced or some other irritating term us alcoholics like to use to avoid responsibility to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. Other reasons I show up include: you are my family. I like seeing you. I like to talk with you about stuff. Breaking bread after the Assembly with old and new friends. The ribs were good. I will go back. There are many other reasons also, yet the page is filling up. It is the journey. Have you ever traveled with an air karaoke band?

Practice living the slogans. See you soon.

Char V.

Panel 70 Area 74 Delegate Northern Wisconsin/UP Michigan

(920) 450-6313 delegate@area74.org

FROM THE AREA 74 ALTERNATE DELEGATE/ AREA CHAIR

Good Day to All and I hope that you have had some serenity in your life,

I am happy to report the Delegate’s Workshop and the Area Committee Meeting that followed went well. Both the Workshop and the ACM were on Zoom and in person. The term people have been using is a “Hybrid Meeting”. There were some bugs in the process but overall, I think we adapted fairly well. For those AA members that attended in person I felt there was a genuine felling of goodwill and fellowship that was in the room. For some of our AA members it is still a little too early for meeting face to face in a large group. That is OK for it has been demonstrated the same feelings of goodwill and fellowship can be transmitted over the internet.

Last week I was attending a Big Book Study meeting and the section we were studying that day was in Chapter 9, “The Family Afterwards”. The passage that really got my attention was “We have been dealing with alcohol in its worst aspect. But we aren’t a glum lot. If the newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn’t want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life.” For me that is what I saw that day in Three Lakes and on Zoom, I saw people enjoying life. There seems to be a something that is indescribable that is generated from our shared recoveryAs I work the 12 steps and do my best to carry the message of recovery to the next suffering alcoholic, I sometimes need to be reminded that I cannot carry the world’s problems on my shoulders and I should smile and have fun.

The next Area 74 meeting will be the Assembly on April 10th. The same basic procedure will be followed for that meeting. If at any time there are suggestions on how to run the Hybrid style meeting, please forward those ideas to me. We are learning as we go.

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

,
Bryon B

Area 74 Alternate Delegate/Area Chair
altdelegate@area74.org (715) 579-5820

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1.....	Delegate’s Corner
Page 2.....	Alt Del/Area Chair article, Table of Contents, Area 74 Contributions Address
Page 3.....	Dates to Remember
Page 3.....	ZOOM info for Area 74 Service Meetings (Assemblies, ACMs, Del Wrkshop, etc)
Page 4.....	District Meeting Lists
Pages 5-10.....	2021 General Service Conference Agenda Items
Page 11.....	Area 74 Assembly Agenda April 10, 2021
Page 12.....	Area Committee Meeting Minutes Draft
Page 13.....	Area 74 Inventory Web Link Announcement
Page 13-14.....	From the Fellowship Articles
Page 15.....	Grapevine Committee Chair Announcement
Page 16.....	Area 74 2021 Spring Conference Flier

**Send Area 74 Contributions To: Area 74 Treasury
P.O. BOX 1191 Appleton, WI 54912-1191**

**Very Important!! Please include group number, group name,
and address of group location or point of contact**

If there is only a group name and location, or contact address, please include this.

Thank You, Area 74 Treasurer treasurer@area74.org

DATES TO REMEMBER 2021		
4/10/2021	Winter Assembly	Reiter Center 1858 S. Michigan St Three Lakes, WI Final format, Hybrid or not, yet TBD
4\18-24/2021	Gen Serv Conference	71 st General Service Conference New York, NY
5/14-16/2021	Area 74 Sprg Conf	CANCELLED May be Virtual announcement pending
5/15/2021	Area Assembly	Virtual Details pending
5/16/2021	Area Comm Mtg	Virtual Details pending
8/7/2021	Area Comm Mtg	(Optional) Location TBD
8/20-22/2021	East Cent Reg Conf	CANCELLED
9/17-19/2021	Area 74 Fall Conf	TBD
9/18/2021	Area Assembly	At Fall Conference
9/19/2021	Area Comm Meeting	At Fall Conference
10/30/2021	Fall Assembly	Reiter Center 1858 S. Michigan St Three Lakes, WI
12/11/2021	Area Comm Meeting	Reiter Center 1858 S. Michigan St Three Lakes, WI

****NOTE FROM THE DELEGATE:** The servants of Area 74 are excited to provide the **dates for the Area 74**

Service Structure. We are lucky to live in an area that hosts many conferences, workshops and fellowship events. As your trusted servants, we sometimes miss the chance to participate in local events because they conflict with the service events you have entrusted us to conduct. We hope that, by providing the Area 74 service structure dates in early fall; they can be considered as you plan your service and fellowship events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you.

NOTE FROM CO-EDITORS: We have combined the general events and the Area 74 Service Structure events into one calendar.

BOLD = AREA 74 events UNBOLD = General AA events in our area

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ZOOM info for all Area 74 Service Meetings:

Meeting ID: 841 1096 5882

Passcode: 1212144

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84110965882# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84110965882# US (Washington D.C)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84110965882?pwd=OWJScFNFRmhGSFI4ZElYbkFYVGY0Zz09>

.....

PLEASE SEND ITEMS, ARTICLES, DISTRICT NEWS, STANDING COMMITTEE ARTICLES, GROUP OPINIONS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE UPCOMING ISSUES OF YOUR AREA 74 NEWSLETTER

Refer to www.area74.org for the most up to date info on AA and COVID19 ramifications

CHECK WITH YOUR DCMs & OTHER TRUSTED SERVANTS FOR CURRENT INFO**DISTRICT MEETINGS April 2021 LIST**

DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	8 th	6:30pm	ZOOM Green Bay, WI	
2	Sunday	11 th	2:00 pm	1 st Congregationl Chrch 724 E.South River St	ZOOM only Appleton, WI
3	Thursday	15 th	5:30 PM	wiaadistrict3.org for details Wisconsin Rapids, WI	
4	Thursday	1 st	6:30 PM	ZOOM 824 2227 0300	
5	Weds	14 th	6:45 PM	Zoom 7160819669	Passcode: 300225 Menominee, WI
6	Thursday	15 th	7:45 PM	Club 76	Menominee Falls, WI
7	Sunday	18 th	5:00PM	First United Church of Christ 111 s 2nd St Colby, WI, WI	
8	Tuesday	6 th	7:00pm	Mount View Care Center, 2400 Marshall St., Wausau, WI	
9	Sunday	7 th	2:00pm	St Augustine Catholic Church 507 Church st Wausaukee, WI	
10	Saturday	10 th	9:00AM	United Method Chrch Arbutus St Contact DCM for Zoom info Rhinelander, WI	
11					
12	Saturday	10 th	12:30PM	Alano Club 10339 South Florida Avenue Zoom Also Hayward, WI	
13	Monday	5 th	5:30pm	Chequamegan Bay Serenity Club 310 Stuntz Ave., Ashland, WI	
14	Sunday	11 th	4:30pm	New Richmond Alano Club 1448 N 4th St New Richmond, WI	
15					
16	Saturday		11:00AM	United Lutheran Church, 304 Main St., L'Anse, MI.	
17	Monday	26 th	6:00pm	105 W. Fleishiem Iron Mountain, MI	
18	Saturday	3 rd	11:00am	106 N Main St Zoom 439 255 9096 Ishpeming, MI	
19					
20				Check website at www.district20area74aa.org	
21	Thursday	1 st	6:00pm	Portage Lake United Church 1400 E Houghton Ave Houghton, MI	
22	Monday	5 th	6:00pm	ZOOM only Sturgeon Bay, WI	
23	Sunday	4 th	6:30pm	1-712-775-7031 and the passcode is 983009 Hertel, WI	
24	Weds	7 th	8:00pm	Alano Club 411 E 2nd St S Ladysmith, WI	

DISTRICT MEETINGS May 2021 LIST

DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	13 th	6:30pm	ZOOM Green Bay, WI	
2	Sunday	2 nd	2:00	St Mark's Church 140 S Green Bay Rd.	Zoom Only Neenah, WI
3	Thursday	20 th	5:30 PM	wiaadistrict3.org for details Wisconsin Rapids, WI	
4	Thursday	6 th	6:30 PM	ZOOM 824 2227 0300	
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9	Sunday	2 nd	2:00pm	united Methodist Church 314 Main St Suring, WI	
10	Saturday	8 th	9:00AM	United Methodist Church Arbutus st Contact DCM for Zoom info Rhinelander, WI	
11				NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	
12	Saturday	8 th	12:30PM	Alano Club 10339 South Florida Avenue Zoom Also Hayward, WI	
13	Monday	3 rd	5:30pm	Chequamegan Bay Serenity Club 310 Stuntz Ave., Ashland, WI	
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19					
20				Check website at www.district20area74aa.org	
21	Thursday	6 th	6:00pm	Portage Lake United Church 1400 E Houghton Ave Houghton, MI	
22	Monday	3 rd	6:00pm	Hope Church 141 N 12th Ave & Michigan St, ZOOM only Sturgeon Bay, WI	
23	Sunday	2 nd	6:30pm	1-712-775-7031 and the passcode is 983009	
24	Weds	5 th	8:00pm	Alano Club 411 E 2nd St S Ladysmith, WI	

71st General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items

I. Agenda

- A. +Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.
- B. +Review the 2019 January Conference Call participant survey results.
- C. +Discuss 2020 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
- D. +Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.
- E. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2022 General Service Conference.
- F. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
- G. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
- H. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2020 Evaluation Summary.
- I. Review 2021 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee.
- J. Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on General Service Conference agenda items.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. +Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
- B. +Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
- C. +Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."

III. Corrections

- A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as "inmate" and "offender" with less stigmatizing language.
- B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.
- C. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

IV. Finance

- A. The pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”
 - 1. +Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
 - 2. Discuss mechanization of group contributions.
- B. +Review Self-Support Packet.
- C. Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group.”
- D. Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less.”
- E. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- F. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
- G. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
- H. Review the “Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report.”

V. Grapevine and La Viña

- A. +Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
- B. +Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
- C. +Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
- D. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.
- E. Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble.
- F. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later.

VI. Literature

- A. +Review proposed “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format.”
- B. +Consider requests to revise the book Alcoholics Anonymous:
 - 1. +Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
 - 2. +Revise the first 164 pages.

- C. +Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:
 - 1. +Develop a Fifth Edition.
 - 2. +Develop a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.
 - 3. +Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.
- D. +Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- E. +Consider requests to revise the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions:
 - 1. +To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
 - 2. +To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”
- F. +Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet *Living Sober*.
- G. +Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”
- H. +Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
- I. +Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”:
 - 1. +Change the suggestion that sponsor, and newcomer be of the same sex.
 - 2. +Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
- J. +Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
- K. +Review recovery literature matrix (2019).
- L. +Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
- M. “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet:
 - 1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
 - 2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- N. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- O. Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- P. Review the draft of the new pamphlet on A.A.’s Three Legacies.
- Q. Review the draft of the new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.
- R. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

- S. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts illustrated.”
- T. Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- U. Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.
- V. Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.
- W. Consider the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, noting past Advisory Actions.
- X. Consider revising the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group,” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- Y. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group.”
- Z. Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
- AA. Review G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy.
 - 1. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is A.A. for You?”
 - 2. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?”
 - 3. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.”
 - 4. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “This is A.A.”
- BB. Review Matrix (2020)

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. +Review G.S.O. general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
- B. +Review the floor action process.
- C. +Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss, and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
- D. Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference.
- E. Review the “Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material.”
- F. Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies.
- G. Consider a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair.

- H. Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload.
- I. Review the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee Selection process.
- J. Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2020 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- B. Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance.
- C. Review progress report regarding the 2021 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- D. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
 - 1. Review the 2020 Report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements."
 - 2. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
- E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts.
- F. Review "A.A. Triennial Membership Survey" report.
- G. Discuss Public Information pamphlets.
 - 1. Consider revising the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
 - 2. Discuss trustees' Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets.
- H. Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook

IX. Report and Charter

- A. +Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- B. +Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
- C. Review the draft of *The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition*.
- D. Consider a request to amend paragraph one, the *Purpose* of the current Conference Charter.
- E. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of *The Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

X. Treatment and Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- B. Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.
- C. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

XI. Trustees

- A. +Consider the revised "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards."
 - 1. Review memo response regarding the consideration of alternate trustees.
- B. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. East Central Regional Trustee
 - 2. Southeast Regional Trustee
 - 3. Trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- C. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- E. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- F. Review the "Statement of Concern and Motion to Censure for Submission to the 71st General Service Conference."

XII. Archives

- A. +Review Archives Workbook.
- B. Review report on "Proposed Book on A.A. History."

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
- B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

**Agenda for Area 74 Assembly
Saturday April 10, 2021**

8:30 a.m. – **Orientation conducted by Past Delegate**

9:00 a.m. – **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes (September 12,2020)

Area Officer Reports

Secretary

Registrar

Treasurer

Delegate

Standing Committee reports

Discussion GSC Agenda Items and Delegates Workshop Reports

12:00 p.m . - Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Continue Discussion GSC Agenda Items and Delegates Workshop Reports

Old Business

Area 74 Inventory Follow Up

How we do Business Motion from District 06

Presentation on updated Guidelines and vote

New Business

Follow up on CAB Passed Motions - Present formats for Agendas.

Conference Updates / Including Bids

Spring 2021 Conference Cancelled. May be virtual. Update to follow.

Fall 2021 (Open)

Spring 2022 (District 13)

Fall 2022 (Open)

Spring 2023(Open)

4:00– Closing & Wrap up

Area 74 Area Committee Meeting Draft Minutes
Saturday March 6th, 2021
Hybrid Meeting
Reiter Center and Zoom

Meeting began 4:01 PM CST

Welcome and Housekeeping

Roll call: Area Officers; Delegate, Alt-Delegate/Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
Committee Chairs; Corrections MI, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Grapevine Chair,
Now & Then, Public Information, Structures & Guidelines, Treatment, DCMs; 1, 2, 3, 4,
5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 20

Approve Minutes from 12-20-2020 Area Committee Meeting

1 amendment made regarding Dani, PI Chair, she was marked as present and was not in attendance.

Reports:

DCM Reports – see appendix 1

Delegates Report – see appendix 2

Unfinished Business:

Update from Inventory Ad Hoc Committee – see appendix 3

Update from Structures and Guidelines

The committee is proposing changes to our guidelines that incorporate **ALREADY VOTED ON MOTIONS** to fit within our guidelines.

Secretary has made an editorial decision not to include the 23 pages of guidelines in the minutes. The proposed changes can be seen by visiting www.area74.org, clicking on the guidelines tab, clicking on the link that says proposed changes and looking for anything in red.

Update on CAB motions from Area Chair – see appendix 3

- Discussion on letting the ACM know that the motion regarding elections being held in a centralized location does not fit with the guidelines and will need to consider how that fits.

New Business:

Additions to Assembly Agenda for 04-10-2021

- Approved

Hybrid or Zoom only for Assembly on 4-10-2021

- Discussion regarding pros and cons for Zoom only or Hybrid Assembly.
- 18 in favor, no opposed of hybrid on 4/10/21.

Meeting closed at 5:46pm

AREA INVENTORY

Shown below is the link for our Area 74 inventory. This is open to all members of AA located in Area 74. Your answers will be submitted anonymously to our outside facilitator. One response per individual.

Thank you for your response to this survey as it will help Area 74 grow and respond to the needs of the alcoholic that still suffers.

This survey will open on 4/10/21, and close on 4/30/21

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAOAO_bet02IUQjI1QTZNNFFRUEMzNzA0NFRPRTRVT1dCVi4u&sharetoken=5OmfJtb9tFRReSRDGIHQW

Greetings to all:

Since attending the Delegate Workshop in person on March 6th, I want to share my observations and concerns of the event. A thank you to the Reiter Center for preparing the facility for us with protective masks, sanitizer and distance spaced seating, all in line with current Wisconsin recommended safety guidelines. A notable thank you to Bryon B. and David K. for their technical skills and equipment they provided to have this hybrid experience go off with few technical glitches. A warm thank you (and hugs to those who approved) to the 18 A.A. members who attended in person. This small group of dedicated servants represented many faces of A.A. - Youth, elders, all the service positions, some healthy, some less so. Some vaccinated, some not yet. But all with the common goal of helping the Delegate get a consensus of the agenda items each break out committee was tasked to research, discuss and report on. These reports were also discussed and reported on by the 30 or so participants logging in remotely. To the remote participants, thank you for assisting in this vital workshop.

This workshop was the first in-person Area event in a year. Past years' attendance to this workshop has been 60-80 attendees on average. At 25% capacity the Reiter Center can accommodate 60 people as safety guidelines are currently posted. The zoom portion could accommodate hundreds of participants.

I was accompanied by a sponsee who was attending his first Area Service event. We prepared for the agenda items by discussing some "hot topics" and other items. Taking an excerpt from the Big Book I shared with him: "To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - This is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it." Although a much smaller group, we experienced smiles, hugs, the warm connection of eye-to-eye presence we have had little of in the past year. Long friendships renewed; new acquaintances made. That is what the in-person meeting offers us. Although about 30 or so of you joined us remotely, we didn't see you all together so for me there was an emptiness of not seeing you across the room.

There are advantages to a hybrid meeting of the ability to have many and new participants - but we didn't see that happen to any grand scale. Their reports and presence is greatly appreciated although for me, the "talking heads" leaves out the personal presence of fellowship and the bond of closeness we experience when gathered together in person. Late in the day discussion of all the Area Service meetings continuing to be hybrid into the future appears to be the direction technology will provide.

My concern: Will all or most of the absent or remote participants come back to in-person Area meetings as the concern of illness over the covid virus subsides? Or will the "Softer Easier Way" change the face of the fellowship around us? In recovery we have committed to "Go to any length" for our recovery, happiness, serving the alcoholic and structure that perpetuates our future.

I'll be back in Three Lakes April 10th for our first Assembly of 2021 and hope you too will attend in person so we can again share time and service together. This is an experience you must not miss - We know you will not want to miss it.

Respectfully,
Marty L District 13

Our Weakness,

Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.

It's too much, One Hundred Thirteen Agenda items!

If we could do anything at this year's General Service Conference, it would be to admit that we have lost control over AA's Service Structure. It's being transformed, similar to the medical society, from an altruistic profession into big business. Our bottom-up flowing triangle has turned into a blob. However, it is being craftily and slowly turned into the pointed side up, top down-managed pyramid, "Oomph! Look what we've done. Hurray!" Instead of doing more 12 Step work, we're devising more ways to promote AA and generate a watered-down program and less offensive, more marketable literature.

Since its conception AA has relied on a minority of people to do the majority of the work; read Tradition II out of the 12X12 (especially pages 136-138). There appears to be hidden agendas in some of AA's "trusted servants, and some Alanons." Exactly where are you taking us? Like the distilleries and distributors of alcohol, not to mention legal, medical, treatment centers, counselors, etc., we're being taken to the cleaners!

Advantage is being taken of the naivety and vulnerability of alcoholics. We are some of the most exploited people on the face of the earth. Few alcoholics -- drinking or sober -- have any idea how naïve and vulnerable they are. Like the Washingtonians, we are being led into very controversial areas in the guise of not wanting to offend anyone. We are trying to win over more women, more minorities, more sexually diverse people, etc., but at the cost of unity and loss of our singleness of purpose. Our focus has turned from the most qualified to the most politically correct, or "How can we make AA cool?"

In 1961 Bill W. wrote the 12 Concepts and when the Trustees received them, they unanimously rejected them because they realized that it was a tremendous shift in power away from the Group Conscious control; Bill went to the Delegates and got them passed in spite of the Trustees' misgivings. We lost the power of the purse when we let countless new publications go out to generate more sales and we let N.Y. set the price of the Big Book.

More recently however, the GSB, our Trustees have taken control of the GSC agenda and have not returned it. This was a decision they made, NOT the General Service Conference. Most GSB meetings are kept secret. The agendas are hidden, and no outside discussion is allowed.

Beginning in January of 2020, the AAWS now can alter AA pamphlets & literature without Conference approval if they (AAWS) feel it's important.

We now have a member of Alanon running the show in AA (GSB Chair), a non-alcoholic. If this was an alcoholic in Alanon, they wouldn't even be allowed to hold the position of Group Representative. We're focused on appearance rather than function. We have become "transparent" rather than honest anymore.

NY seems to want to make AA popular instead of relying on the Groups to carry the message. The vast majority of AAs today have no idea on how to bring an alcoholic through the Steps. There is also a trend to encourage members to do service work as opposed to 12th Step work.

It is essential for any member involved in service beyond the Group level to have brought alcoholics through the Steps. Most members in AA are not familiar with bringing newcomers through the Steps; that seems to be our primary problem -- not better commercials or a cooler, more politically correct image.

Past Trustee Ward Ewing, AA Agnostica, and many of the staff in NY seem to be working overtime to get God out of AA. If there is no God, there is no AA. How can there be anyone in AA leadership who does not have a relationship with God as we understand Him!

Key people presently in AAWS and the Grapevine were both fired in the past; one told the Conference "nobody's going to tell me what to do," in spite of what our first Concept says: "*The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*"

Sincerely,

The Harbor Town Group Conscience

Greetings Area 74,

Hoping this finds you all doing well. I am currently serving Area 74 as the Grapevine Chair. I wanted you to know I will be present at the Winter Assembly on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes, Wisconsin. I have a large selection of Grapevine Books for sale if any districts, groups or members are interested. You can send me an email or call me, and I will bring your order to the Winter Assembly.

The April 2021 Grapevine Magazine will have a Featured Section entitled, "Fun in Sobriety." AA members share stories about diving into life, enjoying sobriety, and having some fun. Also included are powerful stories of hope by members during the current COVID-19 crisis.

In Love and Service,
Sara P.

grapevine@area74.org

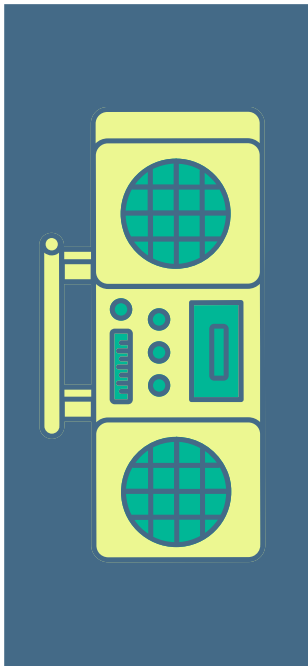


**Join Us Virtually In
Welcoming Speakers
Marena M.**

&

David K.

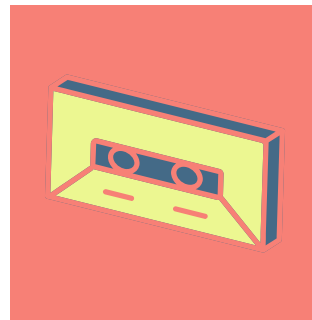
**Both from Chicago
May 14th & 15th,
7:00 P.M. EST**



**Zoom ID:
860 9146
0286
Pass: 009747**

**AREA 74 SPRING
CONFERENCE
2021**

Hosted by District 20



7th Tradition basket through Venmo @Spring-Conference. All contributions in excess of self support will be shared in the service structure.