

FEBRUARY 2021

Now & Then

Newsletter of Delegate Area 74 Northern Wisconsin & Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Volume 61

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Co-Editors: Jeff C. and Michelle Z.

Email: area74newsletter@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

Hello Members of Area 74,

It is year two, month two of this panel of Area Trusted Servants. The year 2021 will be an election year. Elections will be held in September this year at a location to be determined. As soon as we know, you will know. Why do I bring this up? Now is a great time to get involved with Area service and general service work. The General Service Conference is on the calendar and the work never stops. You have the chance to be part of something bigger than your home group when you participate in the Delegate's Workshop. Providing your thoughts on the agenda items that will be discussed this year only makes us stronger. The background material will be released on February 15, 2021. I will be sending this information out to the District Committee Members to share with the fellowship. Please review/read the background and participate in a workshop that provides a high-level introduction. Find what makes you want to get involved and then just show up and participate. All Alcoholics are welcome!

I will be sending the background for their respective committee to the Standing Area Committee Chairs. I trust they will study the material and provide a high-level report on what is in the background and what is not included. Once the committee discusses the agenda items, they will report back to the fellowship.

I have attended the pre-board meeting with the Conference Literature Committee and the Chair of the Trustees Literature Committee on January 14, 2021. This was a good experience this year and felt like the conference committee actually had input on the agenda items being considered and if they would be brought to the conference for our discussion. This year will be interesting with all the carryover of agenda items for the shortened GSC in 2020 and the new items being reviewed. The Literature Committee is feeling like we will have some late nights.

Take Care

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 Happy Valentine’s Day,

Since the last article I only attended one AA event, and that was the District 05 GSR meeting on January 13th. I am happy to report that they will be putting on a pre- “Delegates Workshop” workshop on the 20th of February. If your District is going to have a similar workshop, let me know.

By the time this article gets published I will have attended a Structures and Guidelines Committee meeting on the 26th of January. The Committee has not met for over a year and we will have some catch up work to do. More to follow.

One of the upcoming events that I am looking forward to is the East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present, commonly referred to as the ECR CDPP. The date will be 2-13-21. Being an Alternate Delegate I was invited, along with the other Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Trustee Candidates for the East Central Region. This will be my first time attending an AA event at this level of service. As with all the components of my recovery, there is still more to experience and grow.

On a personal level, my recovery seems to be on track. I am very regular with my morning meditations and prayer before I start my day. If that part of my morning is skipped, I notice it later in the day, and what I notice is I get upset the world is not doing things my way. Lastly, I have been doing my best to talk with any newcomer at a meeting, be it on Zoom or at a regular meeting. When I notice a new face and name on a Zoom meeting, I do my best to break thru all the noise to get their attention, post my name and phone number in the chat box, and ask for their phone number.

Stay safe out there (both spiritually and physically),
In Service,

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

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**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		
2/12 -14/2021	Conf of Delegates Past & Present	POSTPONED UNTIL 2021
3/6/2021	Delegate's Workshop	Reiter Center 1858 S. Michigan St Three Lakes, WI Concurrent Virtual also (See Info Below)
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	71st 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

+++++

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=OWJScFNFRmhGSFI4ZEIYbkFYVGY0Zz09>

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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 February 2021 LIST**

DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	11 th	6:30 PM	ZOOM	
2	Sunday	14 th	2:00 PM	ZOOM	
3	Thursday	18 th	5:30 PM	Alano Club 1210 E Grand Ave.	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
4	Thursday	4 th	6:30 PM	ZOOM 824 2227 0300	
5	Weds	10 th	6:45 PM	ZOOM 716 081 9669	PASSCODE 300255
6	Thursday	18 th	7:45 PM	Club 76, 76 East Central Street	Chippewa Falls, WI
7	Saturday	20 th	5:00 PM	First United Church of Christ, 111 S. 2nd St.	Colby, WI
8	Tuesday		7:00 PM	Mount View Care Center, 2400 Marshall St.	Wausau, WI
9	Sunday		2:00 PM	February meeting cancelled	
10	Saturday	13 th	9:00 AM	United Methodist Church Arbutus St. & ZOOM	Rhineland, WI
11				NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	
12	Saturday	13 th	12:30 PM	Alano Club 10339 South Florida Avenue Hayward, WI	Zoom also
13	Monday	1 st	5:00 PM	Chequamegon Bay Serenity Club 310 Stuntz Ave.	Ashland, WI
14	Sunday	7 th	5:30 PM	Amery Legion Hall Memorial Dr.	Amery, WI
15				NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	
16	Saturday		11:00 AM	United Lutheran Church, 304 Main St.	L'Anse, MI
17	Monday	22 nd	6:00 PM	105 W. Fleishiem	
18	Saturday	6 th	11:00 AM	106 N Main St Ishpeming, MI	Zoom 439 255 9096
19				NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	
20	Saturday	6 th	11:00 AM	United Methodist Church 1212 Morrison St.	Germfask, MI
21	Thursday	4 th	6:30 PM	Portage Lake Church 1400 E Houghton Ave	Houghton, MI
22	Monday	1 st	6:00 PM	ZOOM	
23	Sunday	7 th	6:00 PM	Conference call 1-712-775-7031	passcode 983009
24	Weds	3 rd	8:00 PM	Ladysmith Alano Club, 411 E 2nd St.	Ladysmith, WI

DISTRICT MEETINGS March 2021 LIST

DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	11 th	6:30pm	ZOOM	
2	Sunday	14 th	2:00pm	Genesis Club 1213 Appleton St,	ZOOM only
3	Thursday	18 th	5:30 PM	wiaadistrict3.org for details	
4	Thursday	4 th	6:30 PM	ZOOM 824 2227 0300	
5	Weds	10 th	6:45 PM	Zoom 7160819669	Passcode: 300225
6	Thursday	18 th	7:45 PM	Club 76	Menominee Falls, WI
7	Sunday	21 st	5:00 PM	Alano Club 2111 S Central Ave	Marshfield, WI
8	Tuesday	2 nd	7:00pm	Mount View Care Center, 2400 Marshall St.	Wausau, WI
9	Sunday	7 th	2:00pm	First American Lutheran Church 511 Madison St	Oconto, WI
10	Saturday	13 th	9:00AM	United Methodist Chch Arbutus St	Contact DCM for Zoom
11				No information Available	
12	Saturday	13 th	12:30PM	Alano Club 10339 South Florida Avenue	ZoomAlso
13	Monday	1 st	5:30pm	Chequamegon Bay Serenity Club 310 Stuntz Ave.	Ashland, WI
14	Sunday	7 th	4:30pm	New Richmond Alano Club 1448 N 4th St	New Richmond, WI
15				No information Available	
16				No information Available	
17	Monday	29 th	6:00 PM	105 W Fleshiem	
18	Saturday	13 th	11:00am	106 N Main St	Zoom 439 255 9096
19				No information Available	
20				Check website at www.district20area74aa.org	
21	Thursday	4 th	6:00pm	Portage Lake United Church 1400 E Houghton Ave	Houghton, MI
22	Monday	2 nd	6:00pm	Hope Church 141 N 12th Ave & Mich. St,	ZOOM only
23	Sunday	7 th	6:30pm	1-712-775-7031 and the passcode is 983009	
24	Weds		8:00pm	Alano Club 411 E 2nd St S	Ladysmith, WI

Area 74 Area Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday December 12th, 2020 Via Zoom 8:00 to 12:00 pm CST

Meeting opened at 8:02 AM CST with housekeeping notes.

Prayer Welcome and Housekeeping

Area 74 Officers present; Area Chair, Delegate, Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer.

Area 74 Committee Chairs present; CPC, Finance, Grapevine, Now & Then, Literature, Public Information, Treatment

Districts represented by their DCM; 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 12, 13, 20, 21, 23.

Minutes from the 09-13-2020 Area Committee Meeting were approved unanimously.

Reports:

DCM Reports – See attached in appendix 1.

Delegates Report – See attached in appendix 2.

CPC Chair asked about a floor motion from the CPC motion and Delegate stated that would be up to the Assembly to take action on. Question when the decision was made to hold the Delegate's Workshop as a hybrid and Delegate stated that she and Area and the Area Chair made the decision. Area Chair stated he and Delegate had a conversation and agreed to do hybrid

Meeting Guide update from PI Committee via Webmaster. – See attached in appendix 2.

Questions on the meeting guide app and glitches. Area Chair stated he was going to put together a workshop or place to talk about specific problems or issues regarding the meeting guide app.

Archivist Report – Phil D – see appendix 2

Unfinished Business:

Discussion and Clarification on the "Motion on How WE Do Business"

Reference the Assembly minutes for 10-24-2020 page 3 and 4

Discussion: Area Chair shared sending It to Structures and Guidelines Committee.

GSR shared concern of committee taking action on a motion that has not been passed.

Delegate agreed that the Structures and Guidelines is to work on motions that have been approved by the Assembly.

What do we do with this now? The ACM seemed unclear on what to do with this motion.

Secretary stated that CAB Reloaded should be implemented first before making addressing this motion. It would be recommended to moving to new business.

Supported by DCM.

Motion by Secretary to move to Assembly for Vote, Call to question: 23-yes, 0-No

Vote on motion: "How we do Business" be moved to Winter 2021 Assembly, 16 yes, 5-No 76.2% Minority Spoke, Vote to Reconsider, 9 - yes, 13- no 59.1%

Motion Stands

Update from Inventory Ad Hoc Committee

- "Shane R, and Jim M reached out to several people to act as facilitator for the area inventory. 2 responded that they would be interested. The committee reviewed the background of each person, and choose Cindy F, Cindy is the Past Delegate from Area 71, Panel 61. She currently is a member of the board for the Grapevine. The committee will be meeting with Cindy via zoom 12/16/2020 to discuss questions and next steps."
- Chair stated he would like to add a female member of the fellowship to the inventory committee and any interested individual should contact him.

New Business:

Approve Assembly Agenda for 04-10-2021

Discussion on should standing committees give reports at Winter Assembly.

Chair asked for a vote on including the standing committee reports on the agenda, unanimously vote yes to keep reports on agenda.

Discussion on leaving CAB reloaded discussion on agenda

Chair asked for a vote leaving CAB reloaded on agenda, unanimously vote yes to keep on agenda.

Discussion on Reports for GSC Agenda from Delegate's Workshop reloaded discussion on agenda.

Delegate shared that she has had struggles with the current Area 74 set-up and schedule regarding the Delegate's workshop. Delegate felt that giving the report twice is not useful; at the workshop and the assembly.

Delegate's workshop should be for the work and discussion, decision-making.

Past delegate stated she was in favor of leaving the format how it is.

Chair asked for a vote on discussion of Delegate's workshop items being on the agenda, motion passed unanimously.

Vote on Approving the Agenda its entirety, Yes – 23, No – 0

Discussion - Open Positions in the Area 74 Service Structure – We Need Help!

Structures and guidelines committee is in need of 3 servants, should be past GSR or past DCM.

Archivist needed

Discussion on the implementation of the CAB RELOADED motions that Passed.

Clarification on the motion; "The Area 74 Area Committee Meeting agenda should include at least one workshop, one presentation and one sharing session per year on a topic to be determined by the Area Chair and expressed need."

- Was the intent one of each of those items or just one of these?
- The CAB reloaded committee shared that it should be one of each of those.

Clarification on the motion; "Motion: The Area 74 Assembly agenda shall include at least one workshop, one presentation and one sharing session per year on a topic to be determined by the Area Chair and expressed need." -Based on previous discussion Area Chair will move forward.

Clarification on the motion; "Motion: The Area Chair, in conjunction with other trusted servants, develop a standard agenda format for Area 74 Assemblies for review and approval by the Assembly. Further, the Area Chair develop standard agendas for specific Area 74 Assemblies, including, but not limited to:

- "Normal" Assembly
- Election Assembly
- Assembly following Delegate's Workshop
- Delegate's Report Assembly following the General Service Conference"
- The Secretary and CAB Reloaded Chair offered to help Bryan, Bryan asked for outside perspectives. DCM from 5 offered to help.

Clarification on the motion: "The biennial Area 74 Election Assembly be held in a geographically central location, such as Three Lakes, Wisconsin"

- CAB Committee chair shared that the comments behind it were making the election more accessible by having it centrally located.
- An Area Assembly already occurs each October in 3 Lakes, why not make that the election?

Additional Discussion/Open Discussion

Delegates Workshop as a Hybrid meeting.

We have the equipment.

Encourage all Districts to have a Pre-Delegates Workshop meeting.

- Question on when the background material would come out – generally on February 15th.

- Window for a preworkshop would be 2/15/2021 – 3/5/2021 as the Delegate’s workshop is on 3/6/2021.

Open Sharing

DCM asked for confirmation that the Zoom number used for 12/12/2020 will be the same going forward. And it will.

Now & Then will continue Spotlights on Districts for 2021. Please have your information to the Editors by the 20th of each month.

Meeting closed at 12:20pm

Appendix 1

District 1

DCM District 01 report for 12-12-2020 Area 74 Committee Meeting

We held our monthly district meeting via the zoom platform Thursday 12-10-2020 we had 17 people in attendance. At this time all our chair positions are filled we also had good representation by our district GSRS.

We as a district are putting together a conference committee in preparation to bid on the 2023 spring conference, we will submit our bid at the winter assemble.

At this time, we are holding both in person and zoom meetings in our district both of our clubs as well as our central office are open with social distances and masking being enforced. There are several other locations where in person meetings being held with gridlines in place.

We have treatment centers joining in via the zoom platform.

Our website is up and running but it a work in progress it does have a current meeting list and can be reached through the area website. We do print out our newsletter and distribute it our meetings.

District 2

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All.

I hope everyone is doing well. Our District filled one open position since my last report. A group from Oshkosh is working on putting together a Virtual Intergroup.

Our District Meeting is this coming Sunday at 2 pm. We will be voting on our budget for 2021. The meetings in our District are meeting in person, zoom and hybrid.

Bob H. DCM 02

District 3

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from district 03 serving South Wood County

Not much has changed since our last visit. We continue to deal with the many challenges of Covid.

We have virtual meetings still serving those who wish to continue to socially distance and many meetings remain autonomous and hold in person meetings. We have continued to hold our district meeting virtually and special events have been on hold, such as speaker meetings, to respect facility mandates.

We are beginning to see many more faces entering into the rooms and we work to help the alcoholic still out there suffering.

Enjoy the holiday season and please check us out at wiaadistrict03.org

God bless! Daniel S.

District 4

District 4 is in Central Wisconsin, it is in Portage and Waupaca counties. We have meetings in Stevens Point, Waupaca, Plover, and Iola. Not much has changed since my last report.

We are still having meetings In-person, on Zoom, and some Hybrid (Zoom and in person).

Our district hosted a Safety Workshop on Zoom October 17th, we had a pretty good turnout. Between 40 to 50 people. I thought it went pretty well considering it was our first online workshop.

Our CPC/PI committee had just put an add in our local Buyers Guide with our hotline number and our website address. I just saw that and was excited and very proud of the committee.

Corrections is very active but we have had some activity with “Bridge the Gap” online. We still are unable to go into the jail for meetings

Treatment still is not letting anyone go in there either, however the treatment center and residents have been attending Zoom meetings.

We have all of our District chair positions filled. We are doing pretty good financially with \$1300 above our prudent reserve of \$900. We don’t have any events planned or coming up currently.

For more information please visit our website www.aawidistrict04.org

Thanks Greg DCM 04

District 5

Greetings District 05, A year in review. We have completed one year together, and what a year it has been. I can’t find the words to say how grateful I am to work with such dedicated and compassionate AA members of district 05. If you

would of told me a year ago that we would be in a pandemic, and meetings across district 05 would be closing and we would be meeting together on the zoom platform, I would of told you that your nuts!

Change can sometimes be difficult to embrace, not only in Alcoholics Anonymous, but in our daily lives at home and work. I've watched groups in district 05 embrace change with grace and working for the alcoholic that still suffers. What else has been inspiring was to watch our committee's find unique ways to carry the message to the public, into treatment centers and correction centers.

As for your DCM, there has been times this past year wondering if I was there right person for this position. I struggled early on facilitating our monthly meeting, going to different meetings that I usually don't attend, and finding a balance between AA, Home, and work. In these times I believe humbling ones self, taking a step back and reaching out for suggestions from you, sponsorship, and the fellowship and most importantly to a God of my understanding has helped me immensely. I'm really looking forward to our second year together and working for the alcoholic that still suffers. Love to all, Be safe and my God bless you!

In love and service

- Shane Speckien Alcoholic!

District 6

The current pandemic is still holding us back somewhat. Our last district meeting was via Zoom, rather than in person. Our next district meeting will be held 12/17/2020, with an in person meeting, and putting the final touches on our forthcoming workshop.

We have moved forward with our workshop—"How can district 6 help the groups reach out to the alcoholic that still suffers". This workshop will be held via zoom on 12/19/2020. We have forwarded flyers throughout our district, to all the DCM's within our area, and into the Chicago area, and east coast. We are hoping for a good turnout.

Our treatment chair is working with the local treatment center to bring in zoom meetings in place of our on-site meetings. We had a couple of meetings in there for the patients before the pandemic shut those meetings down.

Since much of our district consists of small towns, our PI chair is contacting the small local newspapers and working with them with a placement with a contact number, or meeting time if a meeting is in their town.

Our corrections chair is staying on close contact with the local correction facilities

December 12, 2020

District 8

Hello, my name is Steve S., currently serving as Alt. DCM and acting Treasurer for District 08 serving Wausau and surrounding area. We currently do not have a DCM or Treasurer.

We have been holding District 08 GSR's meetings online on the first Tuesday of the month.

We currently have 9 in person meetings being held on a weekly basis, at least 3 of which are doing hybrid meetings to allow members to attend if they are unable to attend in person. We also have another handful of Zoom meetings throughout the week. On a weekly basis more meeting info is being updated on website as more meetings are opening.

I hope all is well within your Districts and stay safe out there!

Yours in service,

Steve S. Alt DCM 08

District 10

We continue to conduct our District meetings on Zoom as the church has not opened back up. We scheduled our District meeting for today as this is our normal meeting, second Saturday of the month. Our Alternate DCM will host the meeting this morning. We have many positions that are open in the district from our last election cycle. Those are: Secretary, Treasurer, PI/CPC, & Archives.

We have several in person meetings that have opened back up in person, some at a different location than their prior meeting places. All meetings in the town of Tomahawk have now opened all of their in person meetings.

None of the jails have opened up for meetings in the County jails in our district. I am putting together a packet of information for the Jail Administrators in the various counties in District 10. I will contact our District Corrections chair (who has mostly been absent for our district meetings due to low internet bandwidth) to facilitate that.

Beginning Saturday, January 9, 2021 @ 8:30 am, District 10 will begin an AA Traditions Study-Tradition One, followed by the District 10 GSR Business Meeting at 9 am. The Traditions Study will continue throughout the year @ 8:30 am before the monthly District meeting and conclude in December 2021 with Tradition 12. Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Terri B. DCM District 10

District 12

District 12 Group Service Representatives, elected District 12 officers and interested AA members meet monthly on the Second Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Alano Club in Hayward, Wisconsin and by Zoom.

My name is Pamela Osborne and I am an alcoholic. At our last District meeting, I was re-elected to serve as the District Committee Member of District 12. We also have three new GSRs: Bill T. who represents the Wednesday night Big-Book Study in Hayward; Tracey H. who represents the Monday Cable Group; and Mary A. who represents the Thursday Hospital Group in Hayward. We welcome all new District servants! Roger S. was re-elected to be the District Secretary\ Treasurer also.

At our District meetings, we look at how we can still serve the suffering alcoholics, both inside and outside the rooms of A.A. especially in these difficult times and discuss a Concept using the service manual.

Our District serves the following towns: Hayward, Cable, Ladysmith, Winter, Birchwood, Minong, and Stone Lake. Before the pandemic, we had one to one meetings in all those locations; however, due to the pandemic, meetings are largely held by zoom with some locations, like Hayward and Cable meeting personally and practicing safe distancing guidelines.

Before COVID, we worked to create a helpline, where someone could call and immediately get help with their drinking and we were able to do this with all our members volunteering to man the helpline. This is still available to the community which we are grateful to the AA members who man the line. We have renewed our helpline number which is published in the phone book so this has been even more important than ever. One of our AA members created a business card with the helpline number that was then distributed to the professional community. We are in the midst of ordering more cards so we can distribute them to the community, focusing in on court, probation, counseling and Sawyer County Jail for distribution once they arrive in about a week. During the time of the pandemic, we know many people, including professionals in the field of alcoholism, called our helpline to find meetings, as well as to look for help to get sober so we are grateful we were guided by our HP to ensure this 12th step service would be available for the still suffering alcoholics in our community.

Right before the COVID-19 hit, we were able to create a District website which has been very important during this time to make sure those who needed a meeting- either in person or online- could have that information available to them. That address is: www.haywardwiareaaa.org. All information in the site is updated regularly as meetings go online due to COVID-19 difficulties.

Unfortunately, our 12th step work at the jail is at a standstill due to the pandemic, but we have been in contact with jail personnel so that when it becomes possible again to go into the jail, we will be ready to do this service.

Also during the pandemic those who could not or did not want to meet in person were given the opportunity to attend online meetings using the Zoom format. To ensure meetings would still be available A.A. members volunteered to host these online meetings. Roger S., Tracey and Felicia T. were the servants who stepped up to accommodate those who wanted an A.A. meeting and were held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We are still continuing Zoom meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but most meetings are being held in person now.

At the end of March, I moved to Arizona as my husband has a new position there. Due to most activities for the Area being held on Zoom, I continued to attend all Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies, as well as the Conference as our Area 74 has held online meetings. I also attend the online monthly DCM calls. I then provide information to the District by email and phone calls. I call many A.A. members personally in District 12 since I moved to see how they are doing which helps me to "carry the message". Submitted, Pamela Osborne

District 13

District 13 is located in Ashland and Bayfield Counties of North Wisconsin. The District Committee meeting is usually held on the 1st Monday of each month at 5:00 pm.

Meeting Schedule: There are 26 Monday thru Sunday meetings. 1 seasonal meeting that meets in the warm season.

Since March most groups and meetings are inactive. Some meetings met by zoom. The Chequamegon Bay Serenity Club is now closed for the time being because of the Covid 19 virus.

Financial: Financial situation is that the district is maintaining a positive financial balance.

Phone "Hot Line" (715) 682-4460: There has calls about what and where meetings are meeting.

Corrections: There has been no meetings at either Ashland or Bayfield County jails.

Bayfield County Jail: The woman's meeting is held on Thursdays. Has been meeting thru November.

The mens meeting was held on Thursdays. Is now inactive meeting. Is needing of men to help with going to the jail and chairing the weekly meeting.

Ashland County Jail: The women's meetings are active. Is in need of women to go to the jail and help get meetings started on an ongoing basis. The mens meeting is active and held on Wednesdays 3:30pm and is in need of additional men to help with going to the jail and chairing the weekly meeting.

Elections: The District held elections October 2017 and mentions each month about open committee positions. Current filled positions are: District Committee Member, Alternate Committee Member, Treasurer, Secretary and Corrections.

Area 74 AA Organization: The district members advise of the agenda items that occurs and does an overview of the agenda items as needed.

May 2020 Conference: For the Area 74 AA Organizations conference for Friday May 15th thru Sunday 17th 2020 The conference has been cancelled and the District has been reconciling expenses and costs etc, The balance of seed money was returned to the Area 74 AA Treasurer.

May 2022 Conference: The District 13 planned to put a bid in to host the May 2022 spring conference and was approved by the Area 74 Assembly. End of report

District 20

Good Morning, I am Kathy and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 20 on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. District 20 covers over 3,000 miles and lots of woods. We hold our District meeting in Gernfask Michigan. It is the middle point for most.

We have Online and in person meetings going on right now throughout District 20. As we are moving forward into the new year, we have planned to keep our District meetings online on Zoom through March right now. We will assess the situation at that time to decide if we will continue online or in person.

We still haven't been able to get into the jail in Alger County, as they have closed it for all in person visits and also any Religious or Recovery visits. I have asked about a Video platform but they don't have the capabilities to allow that at this time.

Since deciding to not have a Conference in person in District 20 we are still in the process of looking at and deciding on an online platform. More will be revealed as we will be having our committee meeting this Sunday.

We will also be wrapping up our 2020 budget and getting our 2021 budget ready for approval for our January District meeting. We haven't had a lot going on in our district, but we are keeping in touch with each other and attending meetings online and or in person.

Our website is updated often if not daily on meetings and different events that are happening on Zoom. Dean has done a great job on keeping up the website. We also have a password protected page that holds our meeting minutes and agendas throughout the year.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service! Happy Holidays to you all!

Kathy Parkkila, DCM District 20

District 23

A Look at District 23.

I am grateful to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and active in service with Area 74. Our District boundaries cover three counties: Washburn, Burnett and a small section of Polk. Rice Lake is our biggest city and hosts many meetings in various places. We are made up of many small towns, as is usual in northern WI. You are able to find a meeting in most of them. When all cylinders are working (pre-COVID) we have about 40 meetings per week. Due to COVID, many meetings have gone virtual via a phone conference or video conference, however many are again meeting in person while practicing social distancing.

Our meeting list at www.area74.org/district23 is updated monthly. We feel this may be our most important task in support of the still suffering alcoholic. The list includes the virtual meetings as well as the in person meetings. We also include a contact name for each meeting in case a newcomer has questions or wants to reach out. When someone needs a meeting and checks our meeting list they may rest assured to find the fellowship they need.

Pre- and post-COVID we host our monthly District 23 GSR meeting at Essentia Health in Spooner. Historically, we've hosted these meetings in other locations in the District in an attempt to find something central to all GSRs/home groups: Cumberland, Rice Lake and the small town of Hertel. We also tried a rotating schedule. No matter where the meeting was held it was an hour drive for someone.

We also have an AA Information Help Line that an AA volunteer staffs at all times. This is done on a rotating basis and is a great opportunity for service work. If you know of anyone that might need help in our District, please have them call us at 715-931-8262 and we can direct them to a meeting.

We have AA District 23 Information Line business cards (with the AA Responsibility Statement printed on the back) which we distribute to the community and include in Public Information (PI) mailings. Our PI Chair recently mailed 96 envelopes to the clergy in our District inviting them to let us help them. The packets included information about AA, our District 23 Help Line number, and an invitation to reach out to us if they desire a copy of the Big Book.

We have also renewed a listing for our Help Line number in the Yellowbook for this area, which will be released in February. It also includes the web address for our meeting list (area74.org/district23).

Another service work opportunity that many of us enjoyed prior to COVID was bringing weekly meetings to the county jails in District 23. Our local law enforcement greatly appreciated this involvement, as did we alcoholics that wanted opportunities for service work and to practice the 12th Step. It is definitely a 'win/win' and a very rewarding experience for all.

Post-COVID we hope to expand our service work for Bridging the Gap and Treatment & Accessibilities. Thank you to Marybeth S. for hosting the Area 74 Treatment & Accessibilities Workshop via Zoom on November 7th and giving us the opportunity to participate. She and the group did an excellent job and it was very informative.

Thank you for letting us share just a bit about us good guys in the West as we continue to do our best in support of AA's primary purpose: to help the alcoholic who still suffers. Take care and may God bless!

Kevin W. District 23 DCM

Appendix 2

Delegate's Report

Hello Area, 74,

It is ...that the year is almost over. In many ways, I feel that not enough has been done to help the still suffering Alcoholic and, in many ways, we have expanded the hand of AA to those wishing to live a sober and serene life. We have embraced the use of technology in our service meetings also. As we become more comfortable with the ease it provides, let us take a moment to recognize those who do not have the technology available. It was so very good to see the length some are going to stay connected. The year 2021 is shaping up to be a mixed bag of stuff. I am happy to say, we will be doing a hybrid Delegate's workshop in March. We will have a physical meeting at the Reiter Center for those who wish to attend and a Zoom feed for those who cannot attend. We have the knowledge and technology to make it work.

So, what have I been doing since the last time we met on October 24, 2020?

An email dated November 9, 2020 arrived following the October Board weekend with the status of the Area 74 motion to discontinue the LinkedIn page. The Trustees Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee took no action on the purposed agenda item. The committee made notation that the concerns raised in the motion were addressed in discussions by the committee.

The new list of General Service Conference proposed agenda items was released on November 11, 2020. There is a total of 20 new items with 7 being literature related items.

On Sunday November 7th, the seated Delegates of the East Central Region Meet with Mark E to discuss the October Board weekend

The General Service Board recommended the 71st GSC be held be conducted during the scheduled time of April 18-24 via remote technology. Our East Central Regional Trustee has been working on a sub-committee for the conference working out the concerns of lack of time for the committee to do what they are asked to do and the limit on discussion of Agenda items. We have been told we will have all the time we need. It was reported that we will be doing reviewing the reports from the corporate boards outside of conference week as we did this year.

Following the GSC a new chair of the General Service Board will begin her term. The board selected Linda Chezum former Class A Trustee with a background in being a judge. I had the opportunity to hear Linda speak at the ECR Forum in Milwaukee a few years ago and she left an impression. There will be big rotation of Trustees and Non-Trustee Directors following the GSC.

We will be electing a new ECR Trustee at the next GSC. At this point we have 6 members standing for the position Tommy B– Area 19, Cathy C. -Area 23, John C.– Area 55, Leo S. – Area 22, Cheryl V. – Area 20, and Bob C. – Michigan. The Candidates for Trustee at Large from our region are Michalene R. Area 23_and Mel Weaver – Michigan. The deadline for our new General Service Office Manager resumes has been extended to December 31, 2020.

Paul Konigstein, our very new CFO, has extensive financial background with a focus on non-profit organizations and provides leadership to the GSO Finance department. He is responsible for all finance, accounting, control, auditing, and budgeting analysis, etc. Paul has retained Bob W., as his Assistant (or Advisor). As a result, our reforecasts, chart of accounts, and updates to office polices and procedures continue to move forward seamlessly.

Based on our independent auditor's recommendation, in-kind donations will be reported as a footnote on our financial statements.

The second authorization of drawdown from the Reserve Fund was for \$1.5 million, but AAWS has so far only seen a need to withdraw \$1 million with the option to draw the other half million if needed.

The insurance settlement on the International Convention loss will go far to cover our continuing expenses and AAWS feels that they will be able to repay the total drawdown in the next few years.

The General Service Office remains closed, yet archives were able to move materials to the newly renovated 8th floor. This is saving us money on warehousing costs.

Overall, our finances are in decent shape. With 75% of the year elapsed, we have raised 73% of the expected amount of group contributions and we have generated 73% of the expected amount of Literature Sales. We appear to be on track to meet or exceed the reforecast.

The trustees' Public Information Committee of the General Service Board has an opening for 1-2 nontrustee appointed committee member(s). We are searching for a suitable individual or individuals to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations. They are looking for expertise in social media/networks and communications to assist with the P.I. Comprehensive Media Plan and to serve as a resource on the committee with understanding of this medium and how it intersects with current and future P.I. projects.

The conference Literature Committee meet on November 24, 2020 to r a report from committee chair on the progress report from the Trustee's Literature Committee. We covered 6 items that are currently being worked on. December 5, 2020, I joined the online US/Canada Forum. Once again there was good information shared and an opportunity to ask questions. There were good workshop options. I choose to attend he AA Archival workshop which left me in tears. I also joined the Concept 1 workshop.

I have attended the Finance Committee monthly call except for November when I was much more concerned with seeing my daughter following her surgery.

PI Report

Good afternoon,

I have been asked by our Area Chair to give a meeting guide app update. I am not able to be present today as I have my son home for the first time in a year! Please know that I started to write this report on Monday 12-7, it has become a working document.

The following is a breakdown of the meeting guide app progress.

Our Webmaster contacted meeting guide app support on 10-4-2020, I have (Lucas) already spent much time installing the app and the last final step was to "get connected" the email response from meeting guide app support at GSO was that the turn around time was 20 business days. They responded on 10-19 with questions about our area, Lucas responded same day answering their question. We did not hear back from them again until December 3rd, the last time we heard back was that we are connected. When we didn't see any change we emailed again, still response was that we were good to go still, the data that had been uploaded to the plug in on our site, will show on our site at area 74, but not in the meeting guide app itself.

Other districts in area 74 that have been set up on the meeting guide app have done so successfully. And there are a lot of factors that goes into the ease of that, one of which there may not have been the pandemic at the time they were set up.

We have found a resource to help other webmasters, we have reached out to them for assistance (written Monday 12-7) and we have a route to take to troubleshoot what maybe causing conflict. They suspect the reason GSO is saying we are connected but the data isn't changing is because of possible overlapping data. This is data going to GSO from our districts who already have the meeting guide app linked.

As I am writing this report, today 12-9 the GSO emailed this morning saying they resolved conflict issues. I am now showing data on the meeting guide app. As of today 12-9 we can finally move ahead with other districts who would like to link to the app and are not already using the plug in on their own website. Currently district 7 has graciously allowed us to use them as our testing district, I have worked with Diane and Mike and were able to get them connected. They now see the data on the site. Please allow the PI committee more time to come up with the next steps, now that we have cleared the final hurdle. We have a template on area 74 for districts to download and fill out to get connected, or you can email your questions to webmaster@area74.org and we will respond as quickly as we can. If your district is already set up on your own website, there is no action needed on your part at this time.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these times and we look forward to helping you get set up!

Dani M PI Chair Area 74

We would like to remind the area that if you are already set up on the GSO's Meeting Guide App and you have no issues, there is no need to email the webmaster a meeting list. We will continue to link your website meeting page to the area page as we have been so there are no changes, and no duplicate data going to GSO. If your website is not set up or you do not have a website, the area will be happy to assist, please give us patience as we work through the issues we are having.

Thank you Dani M PI Chair, Lucas Webmaster, Dan and Lil Area 74 PI committee.

Archivist Report

Good morning Area 74!

My name is Phil Dallman, and I am an Alcoholic. I have served as Archivist for Area 74 since October, 2019. Hard to believe it has been over a year already! I'd like to thank the Area for its generous support financially for computer software and preservation materials to keep our rich history available for use now and for future generations.

Under the guidance and with much appreciated help from Pete W., Bryon B. Jeff D. and others, I was able to get the archive repository moved from Eau Claire to my home in Marshfield. It is being stored in my "man cave" area on the 2nd floor. In the first months, I fanatically sifted through all the totes, folders, and cabinets, working to get the whole sphere of physical documents, books, audio cd's, tapes and DVD's sorted as well as coordinating the digital backup files. I'm not done yet (ha-ha).

Using the Area 74 Archives Handbook and Catalogue, I worked with the given logs to be as sure as possible everything was identified and listed so the items would be readily retrievable. I'm so grateful for the incredible amount of work put in and accomplished by past archivists and archive committees which laid the groundwork upon which to build.

To date, all the Area 74 minutes (for Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings) that we have are available chronologically in binders (each page in protective plastic) and stored digitally as PDF. A treasure I found in my foraging through random stacks of papers is what appears to be our earliest Assembly minutes from December 6, 1953! (a copy of which I'd be happy to email to anyone interested)

We have our Area Newsletter, the Now & Then issues going back to May 1958 (also in protective sleeves stored chronologically in binders). They have all been digitalized.

I have been keeping all these publications up to date in the binders and digitally as they become available. This is separate from the incredible work Lucas M has done on our website in making this information available to anyone in Area 74. Kudos also to the work being accomplished by the Now & Then staff in making meeting minutes and motions available on a month by month basis!

Of course, they are not complete. In the May 2020 issue of the Now & Then, Jeff D, then Archives Chair, listed Assembly and ACM dates which were missing minutes. I have not received any responses yet as to who may have the missing documents in their possession who would be willing to share them. I would happily digitalize and return them to anyone who could help out in completing our archives.

There is a huge collection of Grapevine magazines, going back to December 1950 as well as first edition Big Books and other books, publications, newspaper clippings, audio material and pamphlets which are held in the repository. We have historical documents on Area Conferences, finance records, committee work, personal communications with GSO and information on General Service Conferences and Regional Conferences.

There is so much material – what to do with it all?? If there are any hearing this report who would have an interest in helping determine the answer that question the Area could really use the formation of an Archives Committee to help get the word out regarding the rich history (and lessons) contained here.

If you have any questions, or if you know of anyone who has Area 74 historical material they would like to contribute to our archives, please contact me at ArchivistArea74@gmail.com,

Thanks for letting me share – grateful to be of service...what an adventure!

Phil D.

Archivist Area 74

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THIS MOTION WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE AREA COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUPS AND DISTRICTS

MOTION on HOW WE DO BUSINESS

HISTORY

Currently Area 74 has scheduled 4 Area Assemblies, 2 of them in conjunction with a Conference, and 3 Area Committee meetings. The Area committees will meet on an as-needed basis. The Assemblies that include the Area Conference will have speakers, workshops and a dinner dance. The Delegate will give their report at the 2nd Assembly, in addition to a Delegate Workshop before the General Service Conference. In addition, there can be Area Committee Meetings on an ad-hoc basis.

As pointed out in the CAB Revisited report by combining the Conference with the Assembly the people attending the Assembly do not have the opportunity to participate in many of the workshops, panels, speakers, and other activities because they are tending to business with the Assembly. The combining of the Conference and Assembly was brought about by an Assembly motion in 20XX.

MOTION

We make the Following motion

1. The purpose of the Area Assembly is to conduct Area business. As such the Conference should be spun out as a separate activity apart from the Assembly.
2. The Delegate has the responsibility to schedule The Delegate's report as they see fit.
3. Area business would be conducted with 2 Area Committee Meetings, and 2 Area Assemblies per year, with the Area Committee Meeting being a 1 day event, and the Area Assembly being a 2 day event.

REVIEW

The Area Committee Meetings would take place in the 1st and 3rd quarter of each year. The Area Committee Meeting would consist of the Area Officers, DCM's, and Area committee chairs. The purpose of this meeting is to develop the agenda for The Area Assembly that is scheduled to meet in during the 2nd and 4th quarter of the year. In addition, they would pick workshop topics for the workshops that would take place Saturday morning of the Assembly.

The Area Assembly would consist of a 2 day meeting.

The Area committees would hold their meetings on Friday night. This will give a central location, and time for the Area committees, and a chance for everyone to participate in the Area committees.

Saturday morning would be dedicated to the workshops that were chosen during the Area Committee meeting.

Saturday afternoon would be dedicated to handling the business of the area. This would consist of the Agenda items from the Area Committee meeting, and motions coming from the Area committee meetings that took place Friday Night, and any motions from the floor.

In the event of a Special Assembly (i.e. election assembly) we could forgo the workshops on Saturday morning, and replace these with the business session of the Assembly, and the Special part of the Assembly taking place on Saturday afternoon, or we can continue with the workshops in the morning, business session in the afternoon, and the Special part of the assembly in the evening.

*******NOTICE FROM THE NOW & THEN CO-EDITORS*******

The Now & Then newsletter is currently posting events, calendars, agendas, and fliers for events as they are scheduled to be held. There is a good chance that *many* of these dates, times, etc. will be cancelled, altered, re-scheduled or moved online.

Since there is a monthly deadline for getting the newsletter to the fellowship, we are doing our best to publish up-to-date information. Please check www.area74.org and your districts, groups, trusted servants, and fellow AA members to verify if, how, when, any meeting or event you are planning to attend to get the most current information available. We will do our best to get updated information published in this issue to you as changes are passed on to us. We apologize for any inconvenience and are grateful for your understanding the complexity and hardship the current environment has presented for us and all of our fellow AA members and communities in Area 74. PEACE, LOVE, and SOBRIETY Jeff C & Michelle Z.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DISTRICTS

This is a section of the Area 74 Newsletter that is intended to have the fellowship in Northern WI & The Upper Peninsula MI become familiar with other Districts and AA in our Area. The articles can include whatever information your district, or even individual groups in a district, want to share about histories, information, present circumstances, or future plans and endeavors. This is NOT meant to be an editorial section to express views or opinions but simply to share Districts with other parts of Area 74.

The Now & Then reserves this section for two districts each month corresponding with the months in the calendar year. We have 24 districts in Area 74 and by reserving, for example, January for Districts 01 & 02, February for Districts 03 & 04, each district can have an opportunity to share as they would like. Please submit articles by the 20th of the preceding month of your District's corresponding month. Please feel free to contact the Now & Then with any questions, or ideas for topics/information, for inclusion in your article.

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

This section is being provided for any member of Area 74 to submit articles sharing experience, strength, and hope with Area 74 by Area 74 members or groups. The Co-Editors may decide not to publish an article deemed inappropriate or not pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous and will attempt to contact anyone explaining the conflict with publication, otherwise the Now & Then is YOUR Area 74 newsletter and wishes to help in communication amongst the fellowship in our Area.

The intention is to encourage communication and exchange ideas that may pertain to all, or some, of us in Area 74. The formatting may be changed to better fit the newsletter, but the content will not be edited except spelling or obvious grammatical errors. Content may include, but is not limited to, viewpoints on issues concerning your group, districts, Area 74, or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, individual experiences with life as it pertains to alcoholism, or just information covering some of our principles.

Year To Date 12-01-2020 - 12-31-2020

CARRYOVER FROM 2019	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2019	\$32,173.28
Regular Savings Minimum Deposit	\$ 5.00
Carryover prudent reserve	\$3,000.44
TTL CARRYOVER 2018	\$ 35,178.72

OFFICER & CHAIR EXPENSES	
Delegate	\$ 1,000.00
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	248.00
Treasurer	30.00
Registrar	52.00
Secretary	-
Archives	30.00
Corrections MI	40.00
Corrections WI	30.00
CPC	24.00
Finance	39.00
Grapevine	30.00
Literature	41.70
Now & Then	68.36
Public Information	29.00
Structures & Guidelines	15.00
Treatment	-
YTD Chair Expenses	\$ 1,677.06

COMMITTEE EXPENSES	
Archives	\$ 293.50
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	285.26
Corrections Committee MI	183.71
Corrections Committee WI	-
CPC Committee	22.00
Finance Committee	445.74
Grapevine Committee	-
Literature Committee	44.10
Now & Then Committee	-
Public Information Committee	84.42
Registrar Committee	105.99
Secretary Committee	-
Structures & Guidelines Committee	-
Treatment Committee	934.00
YTD Committee Expenses	\$ 2,398.72

OTHER EXPENSES	
Seat Delegate	\$ 1,800.00
Registrar Internet	
Rent - ACM / Assembly	100.00
Treats - ACM / Assembly	46.97
Conferece Seed Money	2000.00
Other Misc Expenses	4999.99
ECR Conference	
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)	
ECR Forum	
CDPP - Trustee Election	
International Convention	
International Hospitality Room	450.00
Sec / Reg Computer One-time expense	

REVENUE SUMMARY	
Group Contributions	13,409.61
* Other Revenue *	3,014.11
Anniversary & Individual Contributions	212.00
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 16,635.72

*OTHER REVENUE *	
Interest Income	\$ 1.86
Refreshment Contributions	77.52
Seed Money Return Spring 2020 Conference	648.69
Seed Money Return Fall 2020 Conference	876.00
Seed Money Return Fall 2019 Conference	-
Fall 2019 Conference Gain	960.04
ECR International Hospitality Return	450.00
Total Other Income	\$ 3,014.11

EXPENSE SUMMARY	
Chair Expenses	\$ 1,677.06
Committee Expenses	2,398.72
Other Expenses	9,396.96
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 13,472.74

TOTAL ASSETS	
Bal-Checking Account December 31, 2020	\$35,710.70
Outstanding Checks	\$374.00
CHECKING BALANCE December 31, 2020	\$35,336.70
Regular Savings - Minimum Deposit	\$5.00
Bal-Prudent Reserve January 31, 2020	\$3,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS December 31, 2020	\$38,341.70

TOTAL ASSETS - BANK PROOF	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2019	\$32,173.28
Regular Savings - Minimum Deposit	5.00
Carry Over Prudent Reserve	3,000.44
YTD Total Revenue	16,635.72
YTD Total Expense	13,472.74
YTD Total Assets	\$38,341.70

Prudent Reserve Activity	
Beginning Prudent Reserve Balance	\$3,000.00
YTD Accrued Interest	
Transferred From Prudent Reserve to Checking	
Transferred From Checking to Prudent Reserve	
Current Prudent Reserve Balance	\$ 3,000.00

YEAR TO DATE GAIN / LOSS	
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 16,635.72
YTD Total Expenses	13,472.74
YTD Net Gain (or Loss)	\$ 3,162.98

GROUP PARTICIPATION	
Active Groups As of Jan 1, 2020	647
Institutional Groups	22
Groups Contributing	159
Percentage of Total	25.44%

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

December 21, 2020

Dear Fellow Conference members,

Our AAGV Publisher is currently on a medical leave of absence and we are seeking candidates to temporarily fill the role of an executive for the AA Grapevine on an interim basis.

It is preferred that the candidate have some understanding of finances and have superb leadership and communication skills. If you are interested AND meet these qualifications, please email your resume and letter of interest to our Human Resources department at humanresources@aa.org by December 31st, 2020. In addition, here are some of the other needed qualifications:

- Ten years minimum sobriety.
- A.A. service experience; knowledge of General Service structure and A.A. history.
- Effective communicator, both verbal and written, to work with the appropriate boards, the General Service Conference and the Fellowship at large; command of organizational details and the ability to respond effectively to multiple constituencies.
- Demonstrated understanding of the unique nature of A.A., the structure and balances of authority in A.A. services.

In seeking applications for this interim position in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons, which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. All applicants will be considered by the Search Committee of the AA Grapevine. Applications will be treated with the utmost confidence.

With gratitude, in service to A.A.

Kathi F.

Kathi F.

AA Grapevine Chairperson

Please direct all
communications to:

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 16, 2020
To: Conference Members
From: Sandra Wilson, Director of Staff Services
Re: G.S.O. Staff Changes

Warmest A.A. greetings from the *virtual* General Service Office.

This note is to let you know about some exciting changes that are happening with the Department of Staff Services at G.S.O.

We are delighted to welcome Craig Weidner and Amy Bailey to the General Service Office Department of Staff Services.

Craig began work on November 16 and is assuming responsibility for the Group Services assignment from Jeff Wine who will take over the Staff Coordinator assignment.

Amy began work on December 14 and is assuming responsibility for the CPC/Treatment assignment from Diana Lewis who will take over the Nominating assignment.

On January 18, 2021, we will welcome James Hurst to the fold. James will report to the Regional Forums assignment currently under my purview in the interim.

We are grateful to have considered a number of qualified applicants for the G.S.O. staff openings and are deeply appreciative to each member who applied. We are satisfied that Craig, Amy and James all met and exceeded the criteria for these positions, and we are certain that the Fellowship will benefit from the broad range of experience, strength and hope that they bring to the General Service Office.

There will be more about our three new staff members in a future *Box 4-5-9* article. In the meantime, everyone here joins me in sending best wishes for a joy-filled Holiday season.

/sdw

ERP Implementation: A Brief History of the Project

In the spring of 2017 the General Service Office, with input and support from the A.A.W.S. Board, made the decision to begin a much-needed process to upgrade our in-house software systems. The goal was to move from a set of old systems that were outdated and not adequate for our needs. The old system was made up of several standalone software products designed to meet different needs of the organization's accounting, production, sales and Fellowship New Vision database. These systems could not be integrated and each were reaching their limits in keeping up with the evolving demands for serving our membership. Summarizing the status of our financials and supporting the membership especially when working across departments was becoming more and more labor and time intensive as more and more "offline" processes were added to the workflow in order to accommodate the limitations of the old system. One of the primary objectives when selecting and designing the new software solution was to provide a single database that encompassed all of the software needs of the organization. The business imperative driving our work: providing the best service possible to the Fellowship.

We began the project by engaging a software selection and design consultant to help us evaluate and select the best system to meet our business goals and objectives. With their guidance, through an RFP process designed to explore in depth appropriate vendors and systems, we selected NetSuite and an initial implementation vendor that specialized in NetSuite implementation. This vendor was tasked with providing professional services for implementing the NetSuite Cloud ERP System. They began work in March 2018, reporting to our IT director, and moving through a number of phases covering: Discovery and Analysis; General System Configuration; General Ledger, Budgeting, Allocation, Reporting; Inventory Management, Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets, Amortization; Constituents, Donations, Pledges and Grants; Stock Item Order Processing; and other critical areas. The process was intensive and impacted nearly every department of the office. Along with the IT Director, the software selection and design consultant continued to provide project guidance and support.

Difficulties Encountered

In December 2018, significant gaps were identified in the initial implementation vendor's performance. The original "go live" date of February 2019 was not going to be met. This realization was the first of a number of difficult turning points for the project.

In light of the delay in the "go live" date and other problems that were discovered, management decided to engage a new, high/level program/project management consultant. They were brought in to take over the project and program management. They led us in a clearly defined direction toward implementation. Additionally, they assumed the responsibility for vendor management and provided professional input to inform the ongoing decision-making and governance of the project. This additional project and program management support was critical but ultimately cost us approximately \$335,000 in additional costs in 2019.

The implementation date was re-set for August 5, 2019 (six months later) and the project team met that implementation date. However, significant business issues arose as a result of this implementation. The issue was that business processes we requested reflected our “old way” of doing business and did not leverage the best practice native functionality of NetSuite which resulted in the need for significant work-arounds and use of extensive spreadsheets and tools for the business operations. The team decided to convert extensive historical information, from both financial and records management systems, which resulted in the need to do extensive data clean-up in the new system. In addition, the initial implementation vendor failed to complete the deliverables mandated in the agreement and produced poor-quality, error-prone customization. Further, much of the financial data programming provided was at odds with how we process and review data.

For the balance of 2019, once problems with the initial implementation vendor and data errors were discovered management addressed them as quickly as possible. Understanding the crucial importance of getting the system functioning effectively, and in consultation with the program/project consultant, we moved to bring in a new vendor to replace the initial implementation vendor and stabilize our implementation. We contracted with a vendor and brought them on board in February 2020 to conduct a rapid assessment of our systems, resources and processes. The rapid assessment identified significant issues related to business operations, the quality and integrity of the information contained in NetSuite and a critical need to leverage native NetSuite functionality, specifically as it related to accounting, finance and inventory management functions. It also recommended reimplementing the Contributions, Webstore and My Portal sites.

With the hiring of a new Director of Technology Services, and continued program and project management support from the program/project consultant, significant project, scope, risk and financial controls have been implemented. A detailed 2020 budget, with regular management review, is in place for all the NetSuite projects performed by the reimplementation vendor and program/project consultant.

Lessoned Learned

In hindsight, the original requirements and definition reflected the “old way” of doing things and initially missed the opportunity to significantly improve business processes and operational controls. From a technical perspective we had initially contracted with a vendor that was savvy about non-profit organizations but not at all familiar with the intricacies involved in the business and records management processes of Alcoholics Anonymous. For example no outside vendor would imagine how much detail we collect from a mail-in contribution (because our acknowledgment of 7th Tradition participation is so important) nor could they absorb how important it is for us to keep accurate and up to date records on thousands of trusted servants who regularly rotate in and out of various jobs throughout the US/Canada structure.

From an internal perspective we could have invested more time in examining our historical methods/processes against the benefits of making changes to adapt to the native NetSuite

functionality, rather than reverse programming the new system to fit ‘what had always been done in the past’.

Significant program and project management oversight is required for an initiative of the size, including governance, budget controls and meeting of the minds of vendors as to the scope, risk and resource management of the project. Fortunately, a thorough and diligent vendor selection process executed in the fall of 2019 resulted in a vendor better suited to lead us forward.

Additionally, we learned there is value to leveraging organizations and their expertise, for example the program/project management consultant and their program and project management role, in this endeavor.

Financial Details

As thoroughly as possible, we have researched the financial details specific to the ERP project and present them below. A summarization is also provided in the attached spreadsheet.

- The software selection and design consultant we engaged to explore and chose an ERP system was initially contracted at a cost of \$72,320. Specific contract amendments are not in the vendor file however actual amounts paid to them were \$86,273 in 2018 and \$60,183 in 2019. Historic contract services reports revealed the original budget for the work was \$147,217 in 2018 and \$25,000 in 2019.
- The initial implementation vendor was contracted in February 2018 with an estimated cost of \$348,294. Adjustments to their scope were made in 2019 in the amount of \$252,000. Further scope adjustments were made for an initial My Portal implementation totaling \$4,050. Actual amounts paid were \$385,325 in 2018, \$363,911 in 2019 and \$91,550 in 2020 (for which the majority was for work completed in 2019). Historically contracted services reports revealed the original budget for their work was \$52,883 in 2018 and \$200,000 in 2019.
- The program/project management consultant, who we identified to take over the project management in 2019, was paid \$334,885 in 2019 and \$246,098 in 2020 to date and is directly in line with their contract and budgeted amount of \$335,536 for the total amount to be paid in 2020.
- Our current reimplementation and ongoing support vendor, began work in February 2020 with a fixed-fee Rapid Assessment. From the Rapid Assessment, a detailed 2020 budget of \$598,710 was established. The Director of Technology Services is actively managing the 2020 budget. The vendor has been paid \$354,400 to date and is on track to complete 2020 within the budgeted amount.
- We anticipate both of our current implementation vendors to carry out the balance of work outlined in their 2020 contracts. NetSuite implementation and support will continue into 2021 to deliver additional releases of My Portal giving Fellowship Registrars/Secretaries

enhanced group and member data access and reporting capabilities, the ability to accept payments/contributions in Canadian dollars, the ability to accept ACH/EFT contributions, and to help us remain current with future NetSuite releases.

Benefits of NetSuite

- Cloud-based, fully integrated solution that currently enables our solely-remote workforce.
- Single source for clear and accurate financials and reporting
- Modern webstore with consistent look and feel.
- Stream-lined, best practice accounting, finance, inventory management and other processing functions.
- Single source of all group/member records in G.S.O. (position holders and those who make contributions and literature purchases, etc.)
- Integrated business processes across business functions.
- Improved member and literature customer service capabilities.
- Eliminates the cost of Traverse, the old inefficient accounting software
- Eliminates the cost of the additional cloud server space required for the old software applications

Moving forward with these newly added benefits will provide the office with the much needed integration and automation for reducing the previously labor and time intensive processes required to conduct basic business for the membership. With the new system in place we will be able to streamline and automate much more than what was possible in the past in terms of supporting the membership, processing literature orders, inventory, contributions processing, receiving new payment options and ultimately redesigning the maintenance scheme of the group information database.

GRAPEVINE News



What's New For February 2021

Grateful? Help Carry The Message By Gifting An AA Grapevine/ La Viña Subscriptions

We can't reach our members behind the walls right now, but our message of hope and recovery can. These are some actual quotes from AA members in prison who have received a "Carry the message" subscription.

- “Thank you to those who care enough to help us in here. We're trying so hard to stay sober!”
- “I'm writing from my prison cell to thank the Grapevine staff and all those members who contribute to the "Carry the Message" project!”
- “So many (subscribers) have touched my heart and given me hope - I don't even want this subscription to end!”
- “Seeing the warm welcoming spaces being used as AA sanctuaries for people in recovery is so heartwarming. This, my friend, is what keeps me going and gives me hope!”
- “I'm sitting here in prison and I have 75 days left today. Thank you so much for Grapevine!”

2021 CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT

Click [HERE](#) to learn more

Want to Help Another Alcoholic?

2021 Carry The Message Project

Grapevine & La Viña are great twelfth step tools!

Give a gift subscription to an Alcoholic In Need

Learn three easy ways to give [here!](#)
Or visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/aagrapevine



Effective, January 1, 2021

Grapevine and La Viña magazines will be implementing price changes.

For more information please visit our website at aagrapevine.org or click [here!](#)



Rotation, Rotation, Rotation

Thank you for your service as a Grapevine Area Chair and La Viña representative. We appreciate it!

Please notify the Grapevine office [here](#) if you have rotated. This will allow us to keep our records up to date.

Spread the word that any new Area Chair GVR or RLV should register at aagrapevine.org/gvr

Book Bundles

\$17.25
(each set)

25% off the price of each book. Available now!
store.aagrapevine.org



The ePub edition of AA Grapevine magazine

The ePub edition replaces the old Grapevine APP.
store.aagrapevine.org

Check out the new audio!

“Many Roads to Spirituality” story playlist is available on our Youtube channel [here!](#)



What's New in Print and Online



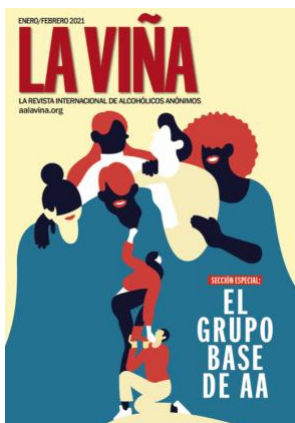
Grapevine

Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's Featured Section is "**Sponsorship**." Members share stories about the joys and challenges of sponsoring one another. Also included are powerful stories of hope by members during the current **COVID-19 crisis**.

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

- **Sober Seniors** — What are some challenges you have getting older in AA? Are you in assisted living? How to you get to AA meetings? How do you stay connected in AA? Did you get sober later in life? (stories due Feb 15, 2021)
- **Young & Sober** — Did you come into AA at an early age? What was that like? Do you go to YPAA events? (stories due March 15, 2021)
- More upcoming topics: **Cooperation With Professionals (CPC)**, **Remote Communities** and more!



La Viña

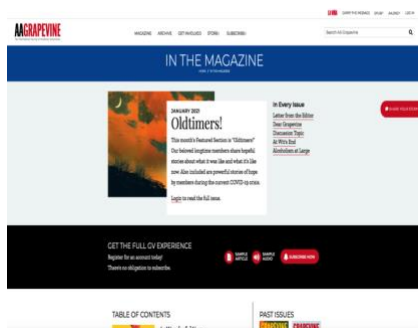
Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's Special Section is "**The AA Home Group**."

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

- **The Annual Prison Issue** – (Stories due Mar 30, 2021)
- **The family and AA** – (Stories due May 30, 2021)
- We are always looking for stories on individual steps and traditions!

Visit La Viña online store, [click here!](#)



AAGrapevine.org

Make your plans and add your events to our online calendar at www.aagrapevine.org/share

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit www.aagrapevine.org/share to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine.

To listen to a free La Viña audio story (in Spanish), visit: www.aalavina.org.

Area Chair/GVR Corner



Please let us know at outreachcoord@agrapevine.org if your Area is planning any online virtual events.



If you attend area events we'd like to know!
Also, if you take anonymity-protected photos at events, we'd love to post them on the **GV Display Gallery**
Please send the information and photos to outreachcoord@agrapevine.org

Grapevine On The Road

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff and board travel have been suspended until further notice.

Did You Know?

In 1973, the Grapevine Conference Committee recommended: "Each Conference area select a Grapevine chairman who would create a structure to work with the groups to enhance the readership of the A.A. Grapevine."

Customer Service

Subscribers to Grapevine and La Viña

If you or someone you know is experiencing delivery issues, please email or call 1.800.631.6025 or 1.800.640.8781 (Spanish).

Email CustomerService@agrapevine.org for English or

Preguntas@agrapevine.org for Spanish.

We are pleased to be of assistance.



Save the date!!



Meeting Guide

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

PI Committee Presents

Meeting Guide App Workshop: How to Connect

When: **Saturday March 20th - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm CST**

Join Zoom- Meeting ID: 817 8874 4478

Passcode: 747474

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81788744478?pwd=RDFoQi9KeTRBSXQvdjhJUWdaZENLdz09>

**The PI Committee is creating a meeting guide workshop for Area 74,
details to follow, please save the date!**

Now & Then Financial Report 2020 EOY

DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
Adjusted balance forward 1.1.2020		968.04
printing costs for 2020	389.15	
Postage	158.90	
Return Postage Paid	0.00	
Copies	0.00	
Misc Supplies	79.78	
PO Box 1yr Subscription	64.00	
Deposit Area 74 Treasury		0.00
Deposits subscriptions		75.00
	641.83	
FINAL Balance Forward 12.31.2020		401.21

Last Deposit From Area 74 Treasury was \$2000.00 February 14, 2019

AREA 74 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

STAY CONNECTED TO AREA NEWS, INFORMATION, AND MORE!

ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS: (NO COST)

Please send a request via email to with your contact information to area74newsletter@gmail.com.

The Now & Then will be emailed to you monthly at no cost*.

HARD COPY SUBSCRIPTIONS: (\$25.00 for 12 issues)**

If you would like to have a hard copy of the Now & Then mailed monthly to your home. Please mail a check made out to CASH along with a completed enrollment form to the following address:

Now & Then

P.O. Box 192

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

*Every group and Area Committee Position within Area 74 receives the Now & Then via email at no cost.
No need for GSRs to subscribe.

or

*****IF a group, and none of its members, has NO ability to receive a copy electronically, Area 74 will provide a hardcopy subscription at no cost to the groups***

