

**Area 74 of Alcoholics Anonymous
Area Assembly Meeting Minutes**

October 18, 2025 | Quality Inn | Rhinelander, WI

Attendance:

- 22 virtual attendees, 38 in-person attendees. Total: 60 attendees, including 20 GSRs.

Roll call:

Officers

- Delegate – Nicholas S
- Chair/Alt. Delegate – Bill D
- Registrar – Katie D
- Secretary – Shane R
- Treasurer – Brent H

District Committee Members (DCMs)

- District 1 – Mike N
- District 2 – Jane M
- District 3 – Allan B
- District 5 – Pat T
- District 6 – Elyssa C
- District 8 – John R
- District 10 – Don K
- District 12 – Paul T (alternate)
- District 13 – Sunny L
- District 18 – Pat A
- District 20 – Nikki D
- District 21 – Jon J
- District 22 – Melissa P

Standing Committee Chairpersons

- Archives – Paul Y
- Cooperation with the Professional Community – Mike N
- Corrections MI – James H
- Corrections WI – Kerry H
- Finance – Bill L
- Grapevine – Bryon B
- Literature – Mike H
- Newsletter – Jeff C and Michelle Z
- Public Information – Shane S
- Structures and Guidelines – Sunny L
- Treatment & Accessibility – Adam G

Approval of area assembly minutes from 4/12/2025:

- Shane shared that corrections emailed to him regarding following the April assembly were made as requested. Additional corrections needed were shared by Marty L. Minutes updated and emailed out to the assembly.
 - Exception: page two of minutes has a sentence that cuts off mid-sentence reading “Hoping that...” This sentence was removed completely as there is no record of what that sentence was referring to or how it was supposed to end.
- The minutes were not approved by the assembly so will be moved to the first assembly in 2026.

Elections:

- Delegate:
 - Candidates – Mike H, Bill D, Brent H, Mike N.
 - First Vote: 75 total votes, 51 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Mike H (12), Bill D (31), Brent H (18), Mike N (14). No substantial unanimity.
 - Second Vote: 73 total votes, 50 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Mike H (10), Bill D (41), Brent H (14), Mike N (8). No substantial unanimity. Mike H, Mike N eliminated due to receiving less than 1/5 of the vote. Top two candidates remain.
 - Third Vote: 72 total votes, 49 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Bill D (50), Brent H (22). **Bill D was elected by substantial unanimity.**

- Alternate Delegate:
 - Candidates – Pat T, Mike N, Brent H, Mike H.
 - First Vote: 73 total votes, 49 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Pat T (27), Mike N (13), Brent H (24), Mike H (9). No substantial unanimity.
 - Second Vote: 74 total votes, 50 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Brent (31), Mike H (5), Pat T (29), Mike N (9). No substantial unanimity. Mike H, Mike N eliminated due to receiving less than 1/5 of the vote. Top two candidates remain.
 - Third Vote: 73 total votes, 49 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Brent H (41), Pat T (32). No substantial unanimity.
 - Fourth Vote: 70 total votes, 47 needed for substantial unanimity.
 - Totals: Brent H (37), Pat T (33). No substantial unanimity.
 - Motion to conduct fifth ballot (seconded). Simple majority vote.
 - Yes: 18, No: 38. Motion fails. **Brent H was elected by hat draw.**
- Secretary:
 - Candidates: Elyssa W.
 - **Elyssa W was elected by acclamation.**
- Registrar:
 - Candidates: No candidates. Body discussed allowing current registrar to continue serving in an interim capacity until another candidate is interested. There was also discussion about coming back to the registrar position at the end of the day to see if anyone decides to serve. Decision was made to hold position until the end of elections today.
 - Katie later accepted a position on the finance committee and so will not be eligible to serve in the registrar role after the end of this year. There were no other nominations for this position.
- Treasurer:
 - Candidates: Shane R.
 - **Shane R was elected by acclamation.**
- Corrections – Michigan:
 - Committee does not have a recommendation for chair. Current chair James H has not served a full rotation as chair and was nominated (seconded) for chair. James accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.
 - **James H was elected by acclamation.**
- Corrections – Wisconsin:
 - Committee does not have a nomination for chair. Current chair Kerry H has not served a full rotation as chair and was nominated (seconded) for chair. Kerry accepted the nomination. Pam S was also nominated but declined. There were no other nominations.
 - **Kerry H was elected by acclamation.**
- Finance:
 - Committee recommends Mike N (seconded) for chair. Mike accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.
 - **Mike N was elected by acclamation.**
- Public Information:
 - Committee recommends Jane M (seconded) for chair. Jane accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.
 - **Jane M was elected by acclamation.**
- Treatment and Accessibility:
 - Committee does not have a recommendation for chair. Pam S was nominated but declined.
 - The body was asked for nominations again at the end of elections. There were no nominations for the position.
- CPC:

- Committee recommends Pat T (seconded) for chair. Pat accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.
 - **Pat T was elected by acclamation.**
- Structures and Guidelines (two committee members):
 - Candidates: Brian B, Bob H.
 - **Brian B and Bob H were elected by acclamation.**
- Finance (two committee members):
 - Candidates: Katie D, Harold H.
 - **Katie D and Harold H were elected by acclamation.**
- Grapevine (offered to outgoing delegate):
 - Nicholas S accepts offer. **Nicholas S was elected by acclamation.**
- Archives:
 - Committee does not have a recommendation for chair. Paul Y, current archives chair, accepted a nomination (seconded). The guidelines only encourage rotation of committee chairs.
 - **Paul Y was elected by acclamation.**

The body is asked to spread the word about the two vacancies beginning January 2026 (registrar, treatment and accessibility). If there are any interested candidates, the area chair can call a special election to fill these positions.

Conference updates:

- 2025 Conference Recap (Melissa P, DCM 22):
 - Registration total – 165.
 - Banquet total – 100.
 - Seed money returned to area.
 - Question regarding \$17,000 in expenses for 165 registrations would total over \$100/person. The committee requested additional money from groups to cover the hospitality room – if that had been included in the registration cost, we would have lost \$5,000. This is a brand new thing – asking for donations for hospitality.
 - Recommendation that we re-evaluate seed money for conferences now that we are only doing one per year instead of two per year.
- 2026 Area 74/ECR Conference (Pat T, DCM 5):
 - June 26-28, 2026. UWEC. Link is on area 74 homepage.
 - Still working on agenda and programming.
 - Meeting monthly.
 - Looking for people interested in serving or volunteering for event.
 - At very end of registration the platform asks for a donation that defaults to a contribution. You do not have to donate but have to manually change it to zero to not donate.
 - Question about lodging and wording “couples” – dorms are generally 4 beds and shared bedrooms.

2025 Budget Overages:

- The finance committee recommends covering overages for the delegate and alternate delegate. The body approved covering the overages by simple majority vote.
- The finance committee recommends reimbursing the corrections Michigan chair for attending the national corrections conference. The body approved covering the overages by simple majority vote.

2026 Budget Presentation:

- Proposed budget presented by the finance committee.
 - **Vote to approve 2026 budget:** 44 yes, 2 no. There was no minority opinion willing to speak.
 - **2026 budget passes by simple majority.**

2026 Dates to Remember:

- **Vote to approve the 2026 dates to remember:** 38 yes, 2 no.
 - Minority opinion:
 - There is an upcoming motion requesting a date change which would be in conflict with these dates. No one wanted to change their vote.
 - **2026 dates to remember passes by simple majority.**

2027 ECR Forum Update:

- June 2027 in District 1 Oneida Hotel and Casino.
- General Service Office will now take over coordination of the event in conjunction with our delegate elect and ECR trustee.

2027 Area Conference Bids:

- District 13 (Sunny L):
 - Dates would be September 15-17, 2027. AmericInn Ashland. \$129 +taxes lodging.
 - Budget attendance 175 – registration \$25, banquet \$35.
- There were no additional bids.
 - **Vote to accept district 13's bid for the 2027 conference:** 46 yes, 0 no.
 - **District 13's bid for the 2027 conference was approved by simple majority.**

Motion: Proposed Guidelines for the Area 74 Newsletter:

- Jeff C presented the motion to the assembly body. Jeff C also shared that co-editor Michelle Z is looking to rotate out of her position at the end of the year.
 - Request to add statement to "Duties & Responsibilities" about ensuring the anonymity of members regarding not printing full names.
- Chair tabled this motion until the next assembly in 2026. Jeff and Michelle will update the guidelines and continue to solicit feedback in the meantime.

Motion: Remove Past Delegates' Voice and Vote from Area Assemblies:

- Pat T presented the motion on behalf of district 5. Summary of discussion:
 - Support for Past Delegates Having a Voice but Not a Vote:
 - Many GSRs and DCMs expressed that while past delegates' experience is valuable, they should not vote, as they no longer represent a group.
 - Several groups supported the removal of the vote to ensure GSRs' voices aren't diluted.
 - Some members shared personal experiences of feeling intimidated or shouted down by past delegates.
 - Concerns About the Motion's Clarity & Intent:
 - Some requested clarification on the background of the motion, especially regarding allegations of newer GSRs being "shut down."
 - A few suggested that the motion might feel punitive or divisive.
 - Opposition to the Motion:
 - Some districts and members opposed the motion, believing past delegates should retain both voice and vote, emphasizing their ongoing value and leadership.
 - One DCM questioned if removing the vote from delegates would cause disunity, especially when other non-representative roles (e.g., officers, committee chairs) still have voting rights.
 - Neutral or Mixed Feelings:
 - Some districts hadn't gathered full group input yet.
 - Others expressed that the motion needs revision to better reflect the collective sentiment of the Area.
 - Procedural Questions Raised:
 - What happens if a past delegate is elected to another role (e.g., GSR or DCM)?

- Who gets to invite a past delegate to speak if their voice is removed?
- How do Concepts and Traditions apply to this situation?
- GSR moved to recommit to ACM (seconded).
 - Vote: 43 yes, 10 no. **Motion passes.**

Motion: 1-Year Extension of Trial of Service Meeting Schedule:

- Bill D presented the motion to the area body. Summary of discussion:
 - Too early to judge the trial's success; more time and review needed.
 - Concerns about limited time to complete work under new schedule.
 - Some members appreciated the separation of conference and assembly.
 - Several leaders support extending the trial, citing progress and need for more data.
 - Clarification that the shift to one conference per year wasn't only due to low bids.
 - Rising costs highlighted; need to balance effective work with fewer meetings.
 - Vote: 41 yes, 0 no. **Motion passes.**

Motion: Move July ACM to Late August:

- Summary of discussion:
 - Some GSRs expressed that August may not be better than July due to vacations and suggested September or October instead.
 - A past delegate noted 2026 event dates and locations are already set, limiting flexibility.
 - The delegate emphasized the current schedule supports informed group conscience; moving meetings could disrupt this.
 - One GSR mentioned a district fair in August would conflict with availability.
- DCM called to question. Vote: 39 yes, 1 no. **Motion to call to question passes.**
- Vote: 6 yes, 30 no. **Motion fails.**

The meeting closed at 4:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Shane R, Area 74 Secretary