

December 2023

Now & Then

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

Volume 64 www.area74.org Number 6

Co-Editors: Jeff C. and Michelle Z.

Email: area74newsletter@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

Greetings Area 74,

We are now working our way through the holiday season and Thanksgiving is in our rear-view mirror. It is a common theme that the Holidays can cause some anxiety and stress in our lives. When I started making God and AA a priority in my life, the levels of anxiety decreased proportionally to my commitment to my AA program. I have listened to a lot of AA speakers, and I usually can pick out a gem of inspiration from each that assists me in my daily living. One of these gems is a quote, "I do not have to participate in someone else's insanity". That simple idea has helped me through many a holiday season.

I sent out some emails recently and one of those emails was a letter from Bob W, our General Service Office Manager. The short version of the message is AA is short on cash. If you did not get that email, that same letter is included in this edition of the Now and Then and on the Meeting Guide app (click on the NEWS tab).

On 10-28-23 District 12 had a workshop at the Hayward Serenity Club and Ishpeming hosted an Intergroup meeting on 11-04-23. Both events included a potluck and I shared my experience, strength and hope at both locations. I want to thank both locations and their planning committees for their hospitality and the opportunity to be of service.

On 11-15-23 there was a General Service Conference online sharing session. 133 members were in attendance. The initial discussion was on the list of Potential Agenda Items. Some of the Delegates wanted to know more about the process and whether or not each item would be discussed. Each PAI was discussed at some level, even if it did not make the final list of agenda items. The last 30 minutes were devoted to how to build trust between the Trustees and the fellowship. The general thought was trust was being rebuilt but there is still more work to be done.

My time as Delegate for Area 74 is drawing to a close. My last official meeting will be the ACM on 12-9-23. The honor of serving Area 74, and AA as a whole, is an experience that will be with me the rest of my life. As Bob W, our General Service Office Manager, pointed out in his letter to the fellowship, November is generally considered to be Gratitude month. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

In love and fellowship,

Bryon B Delegate Panel 72 Area 74

715-579-5820

delegate@area74.org

Send Area 74 Contributions To: Area 74 Treasury PO Box 171 Manistique, MI 49854

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

FROM THE AREA 74 ALTERNATE DELEGATE/ AREA CHAIR

Well Area 74,

We have been rocketed into a 4th dimension......... That can be the only explanation for the how fast the past 24-months have gone. I am in complete disbelief that my time as Alternate Delegate / Area Chair is over – it seriously seems as if I just began.

I recently was at the 2023 East Central Regional Forum in Cleveland. I, along with nearly 200 others were attending their first forum with over 200 returning forum attendees. I was BLOWN away. What a wonderful and moving weekend. Trustees, Board Members, Staff Members and fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous gathered to share their love of our program, inform us about the goings-on of our board, and to learn.

I was amazed by the attendance from Districts and Areas. The next one is in 2025 in Indianapolis – LETS START PLANNING NOW!

A Forum Report will be available in the next couple of months.

This opportunity to attend the Forum was a wonderful transition event to move from my role as Alternate Delegate to Delegate. I feel connected and a part of Panel 74 as a number of us were in Cleveland and talked about seeing each other soon.

I am humbled by your support of me for the past two years and your trust in me for the next two. There are some tough times ahead for Alcoholics Anonymous – financial struggles, continued tough conversations on difficult topics and still recovering from the hit our meetings took from COVID.

Area 74 is in a great place. I was so inspired by all of the willing servants who stood for positions and were elected – we are in good hands.

I will close with this, a quote from Albert Schweitzer, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider

Panel 72, Area 74 Alt-Delegate / Area Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	171212 01 0011111110
Page 1	Delegate's Corner, Contribution address
Page 2	Area Chair Article, Table of Contents
Page 3	Dates to Remember 2023-24, Zoom Info
Page 4	District Meeting Lists
Page 5	Area 74 Area Committee Mtg Agenda
Page 6	Area 74 Registrar Letter
Page 7	Area 74 Treasurers Report
Page 8	Year to Date Budget Report
Page 9	Revenue & Expense Report Month by Month
Page 10-11	Letter from GSO General Manager
Page 12	U.P. Intergroup Flyer
Page 13	WICYPAA Flyer
Page 14	District 01 Intergroup Flyer
Page 15	CTBG Flyer
Page 16	Now & Then Subscription Information

DATES TO REMEMBER 2023 – 2024			
12/16/2023	Area Committee Mtg	(Optional) Virtual	
2/9-2/11,/2024	Conference Del Past	Area 22 – Muncie, IN	
3/2/24	Delegates Workshop	St Stephen Lutheran Church Wausau, WI	
3/2/24	Area Comm Mtg	St Stephen Lutheran Church Wausau, WI	
3/30/24	Winter Assembly	Quality Inn Rhinelander, WI	
4/14-4/20/24	73 rd Gen Serv Conf	Brooklyn, NY	
5/17-5/19/24	Area 74 Spring Conf	District 13 Ashland, WI	
5/18/24	Area 74 Assembly	District 13 Ashland, WI	
5/19/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 13 Ashland, WI	
6/7-6/9/24	East Centrl Reg Conf	Michigan State Conv Grand Rapids, MI	
8/3/24	Area Comm Mtg (optional)	Virtual	
9/13-9/15/24	Area 74 Fall Conf	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI	
9/14/24	Area Assembly	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI	
9/15/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI	
10/12/24	Fall Assembly	Quality Inn Rhinelander, WI	
12/7/24	Area Comm Mtg	Virtual	

^{**}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

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2024 DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION TO

AREA74NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

OR

PO BOX 192 STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

CHECK WITH YOUR DCMs & OTHER TRUSTED SERVANTS FOR CURRENT INFO

een Bay, WI Appleton, WI nsin Rapids, WI mherst, WI ippewa Falls rshfield, WI Jausau, WI iuring, WI nelander, WI shland, WI Richmond, WI Mountain, WI ippeming, MI
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Invite an Area Committee to Present a Workshop to your District or group!

Ever wondered about why we have committees in Area Service or what these committees do? Have you thought about getting involved in a committee?

Learn about how AA works in Corrections, PI (Public Information), CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community), Grapevine, Literature, and Treatment & Accessibilities.

Learn about the role of Archives, Structures & Guidelines, Finance, the Webmaster, and the Now and Then.

You also get to strengthen your sobriety in AA when you meet new people from other communities who work the AA program.

All you have to do is ask! Find email addresses for Area 74 Committee Chairs at area74.org under "Directory" "Area Standing Committees". Help us strengthen our ability to serve AA in Area 74.

Area 74 Area Committee Meeting Agenda – Virtual 12/9/23

8:00am - 10:00am

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 1096 5882 Passcode: 1212144

Prayer
Welcome and Housekeeping
Roll call

Approve Minutes from 09.17.23

Reports:

DCM Reports
Delegate's Report

Unfinished Business:

- Budget Review adjusted numbers
- Ad hoc Committee for Review of 2025/2026 Calendar

New Business:

- Thoughts from the Forum Nicholas
- Bill's Writings and Discussion Questions
- Delegate's Workshop
- February Check-In

Close with Responsibility Statement

A Season of Change

Hi Everyone!

My name is Katie D., your Area 74 Registrar. In my position, I am responsible for making sure all groups are listed correctly with GSO (Fellowship Connection) along with making sure all position holders (DCM's, AltDCM's, GSR's, AltGSR's and Mail Contacts) are properly listed as well. (I do not handle committee positions for your group or district. That is done on a district level.) I have been working diligently over the last several months to get our Area groups and all our group/district representatives properly listed.

By now, your districts, along with the groups in your districts, should have held elections for DCM's, ADCM's, GSR's and AGSR's. Even if there were no changes to the position holders, most positions have an end date listed in Fellowship Connection (usually 2 years from the date you first took the position). What that means to you is that once your end date comes up, you will no longer receive communications from GSO. And, since most of the reports sent out by Area 74 are based on the data provided by Fellowship Connection (GSO), you may be missing out on vital Area information as well. That's why it is critical you fill out one of the forms listed below.

Here's where I need your help! The links listed below will enable you to help make sure we have everything we need to ensure you get all the information you need. There are a few things to be aware of — there is no "Effective Date" on any of the forms. The date you list at the top of the form is what I will use for the effective date, so if the change does not go into effect until 1/1/2024, then that's the date you should enter. Also, there is no place to list an AltDCM on the DCM Change form. It has a place to list a DCMC. Just cross out DCMC and put in Alt DCM. All position holders MUST have an email address to be listed in Fellowship Connection. This information is only used by New York and the Area and is not passed on or sold to anyone else. Your information is kept private!

If you are an existing DCM, please log into Fellowship Connection and check out the groups in your area. There are 3 group listings for you to review – Active, Inactive and Unknown groups. (There are 3 groups listed under "Incomplete", so please check those out as well to see if they are in your district). We currently have 99 groups in the "Unknown" category, which means they are not receiving any information from GSO or the Area, most likely because they have no GSR or mail contact, or no address for the group listed. If groups are no longer active/inactive, I need to know that as well. As DCM, you have full access to everything I have in Fellowship Connection, except you are unable to change anything. That's my job! If you are having trouble accessing FC, or need help navigating through it, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. It can be a little overwhelming and I have to say, it is not the most user-friendly platform, so don't get discouraged. If you are an incoming DCM, you will receive access to Fellowship Connection through an email from GSO. If you don't receive an email after your effective date, let me know and we will get you started.

I can't express to you how grateful I am for your willingness to serve this amazing organization. If you need anything from me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

PLEASE send these forms directly to me using one of the 2 addresses listed below. Please do not send them to GSO/Member Service.

https://www.aa.org/gso-dcm-dcmc-information-change-form

https://www.aa.org/gso-group-information-change-form

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/f-30 0322.pdf

Katie D.

Registrar, Area 74

Kdarea74@gmail.com/registrar@area74.org

619-992-1395

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



Year To Date 11-01-2023 - 11-30-2023

CARRYOVER FROM 2021	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2022	\$38,589.61
Regular Savings Minimum Deposit	\$ 5.00
Carryover prudent reserve	\$3,000.00
TTL CARRYOVER 2021	\$41.594.61

OFFICER & CHAIR EXPENSES		
Delegate	\$	1,618.97
Area Chair-Alt Delegate		1,511.40
Treasurer		1,302.09
Registrar		649.15
Secretary		709.70
Archives		55.45
Corrections MI		996.34
Corrections WI		1,262.30
CPC		501.46
Finance		427.21
Grapevine		620.00
Literature		760.00
Now &Then		275.00
Public Information		919.34
Structures & Guidelines		-
Treatment/Accessibilities		799.34
YTD (Chair Expenses \$	12,407.75

COMMITTEE EXPENSES		
Archives	\$	55.45
Area Chair/Alt Delegate		100.00
Corrections Committee MI		195.00
Corrections Committee WI		-
CPC Committee		499.96
Finance Committee		591.36
Grapevine Committee		-
Literature Committee		531.47
Now &Then Committee		50.00
Public Information Committee		2,659.94
Registrar Committee		105.49
Secretary Committee		-
Structures & Guidelines Committee		140.84
Treatment/Accessibility Committee		1,234.15
YTD Committee Expens	ses \$	6,163.66

OTHER EXPENSES		
Seat Delegate	\$	2,600.00
Registrar Internet		73.84
Rent - ACM / Assembly		500.00
Treats - ACM / Assembly		812.26
Conference Seed Money		3000.00
Other Misc Expenses		643.30
ECR Conference		100.00
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)		0.00
ECR Forum		739.77
CDPP - Trustee Election		0.00
International Convention		0.00
International Hospitality Room		0.00
Sec / Reg / Zoom Computer One-time expense		529.58
	<u> </u>	
YTD Other Expenses	\$	8,998.75
Zoom Operators (T and A)		1154.6

REVENUE SUMMARY		
Group Contributions	\$	20,496.58
* Other Revenue *		3.99
Anniversary & Individual Contributions		100.00
YTD Total Revenu	ıe \$	20.600.57

* OTHER REVENUE *	
Interest Income	39.70
Refreshment Contributions	20.00
Seed Money Return Spring 2022 Conference	(699.01)
Spring 2023 Conference Gain/Loss	-
Seed Money Return Fall 2021 Conference	-
Fall 2023 Conference Gain/Loss	-
Refund GSO	643.30
Total Other Income	¢ 3.00

EXPENSE SUMMARY		
Chair Expenses		\$ 12,407.75
Committee Expenses		\$ 6,163.66
Other Expenses		\$ 8,998.75
Υ	TD Total Expenses	\$ 27,570.16

TOTAL ASSETS	
Bal-Checking Account November 30, 2023	\$33,004.75
Outstanding Checks	\$1,384.73
CHECKING BALANCE November 30, 2023	\$31,620.02
Regular Savings - Minimum Deposit	\$5.00
Bal-Prudent Reserve June 30, 2023	\$3,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS November 30,2023	\$34,625.02

TOTAL ASSETS - BANK PROOF	
Ending Balance Dec 31, 2021	\$38,589.61
Regular Savings - Minimum Deposit	5.00
Carry Over Prudent Reserve	3,000.00
YTD Total Revenue	20,600.57
YTD Total Expense	27,570.16
	\$34.625.02

Prudent Reserve Activity	
Beginning Prudent Reserve Balance	\$3,000.00
YTD Accrued Interest	
Transferred From Prudent Reserve to Checking	8.29
Transferred From Checking to Prudent Reserve	
Current Prudent Reserve Balance	\$ 3,000,00

YEAR TO DATE GAIN / LOSS		
YTD Total Revenue	\$	20,600.57
YTD Total Expenses		27,570.16
YTD Net Ga	in (or Loss) \$	(6.969.59)

GROUP PARTICIPATION						
Active Groups As of November 30, 2023	668					
Institutional Groups	64					
Groups Contributing	64 197					
	32.62%					

Area 74 - 2023 YTD Budget Report Year To Date 11-01-2023 - 11-30-2023

OFFICER & CHAIR EXPENSES		Budaet		Actual	Budaet
Delegate		2,600.00	\$	1,618.97	\$ 981.03
Area Chair-Alt Delegate		1,700.00		1,511.40	188.60
Treasurer		1,000.00		1,302.09	(302.09)
Registrar		1,000.00		649.15	350.85
Secretary		1,000.00		709.70	290.30
Archives		1,000.00		55.45	944.55
Corrections MI		1,000.00		996.34	3.66
Corrections WI		1,000.00		1,262.30	(262.30)
CPC		1,000.00		501.46	498.54
Finance Expenses		1,000.00		427.21	572.79
Grapevine		1,000.00	<u> </u>	620.00	 380.00
Literature		1,000.00		760.00	240.00
Now &Then		1,000.00		275.00	725.00
Public Information		1,000.00		919.34	80.66
Structures & Guidelines		1,000.00			1,000.00
Treatment		1,000.00		799.34	200.66
YTD Chair Exper	nses \$	18.300.00	\$	12.407.75	\$ 5.892.25

Main Menu

REVENUE SUMMARY	Budaet	Actual	Budaet
Group Contributions	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 20,496.58	\$ 3,503.42
* Other Revenue *	6,500.00	(639.31)	7,139.31
Anniversary & Individual Contributions	 200.00	100.00	 100.00
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 30.700.00	\$ 19.957.27	\$ 10.742.73

COMMITTEE EXPENSES	Budget	Actual	Budget
Archives	1,000.00	\$ 55.45	\$ 944.55
Area Chair / Alt Delegate	715.00	100.00	615.00
Corrections Committee MI	1,600.00	195.00	1,405.00
Corrections Committee WI	800.00	-	800.00
CPC Committee	1,040.00	499.96	540.04
Finance Committee Expenses	1,950.00	591.36	1,358.64
Grapevine Committee	200.00	-	200.00
Literature Committee	860.00	531.47	328.53
Now &Then Committee	600.00	50.00	550.00
Public Information Committee	5,000.00	2,659.94	2,340.06
Registrar Committee	106.00	105.49	0.51
Secretary Committee	120.00	-	120.00
Structures & Guidelines Committee	800.00	140.84	659.16
Treatment/Accessibility Committee	6,400.00	1,234.15	5,165.85
YTD Committee Expenses	21.191.00	6.163.66	15.027.34

* OTHER REVENUE *	Budget	Actual	Budget
Interest Revenue		39.70	
Refreshment Contributions		20.00	
Seed Money Return Spring Conf		(699.01)	
Spring Conference Gain/Loss		-	
Seed Money Return Fall Conf		-	
Fall Conference Gain/Loss		-	
Prudent Reserve Transfer from Savings		-	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (639.31)	\$ 2,639.31

OTHER EXPENSES	Budaet	Actual	Budaet
Seat Delegate	2,600.00	2,600.00	<u> </u>
Registrar Internet	120.00	73.84	46.16
Assembly & ACM Rent	600.00	500.00	100.00
Assembly & ACM Expenses	1,750.00	812.26	937.74
Conference Seed Money	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Other / Misc Expenses	100.00	643.30	(543.30)
ECR Conference	1,000.00	100.00	900.00
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)	i	-	i -
East Central Regional Forum	1,000.00	739.77	260.23
Conf. of Delegates past/present Trustee	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
International Convention	750.00	<u> </u>	750.00
International Convention Hospitality Room	400.00	-	400.00
Sec/Reg/Zoom computer/onetimeexpens	200.00	529.58	(329.58)
Prudent Reserve	3,000.00	i	3,000.00
YTD Other Expenses	\$ 18,520.00	\$ 8,998.75	\$ 9,521.25

EXPENSE SUMMARY	Budaet		Actual		Budaet
Chair Expenses	\$ 18,300.00	\$	12,407.75	\$	5,892.25
Committee Expenses	21,191.00		6,163.66	[15,027.34
Other Expenses	18,520.00		8,998.75		9,521.25
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 58,011.00	4	27,570.16	4	30,440.84

Main Menu

Revenue & Expense by Month Area 74 Treasury 2023

vonue	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
venue Group Contributions	2,394.53	1,653.39	1.262.47	2,625.45	1,899.50	1,311.40	2,642.00	1,080.78	973.60	2,924.08	1,729.38	0.00	20,496.58
Personal Anniversary	2,334.33	1,033.33	100.00	2,023.43	1,699.30	1,311.40	2,042.00	1,000.76	373.00	2,324.08	1,729.30	0.00	100.0
Interest Income		-	3.00		9.79	-	13.29	-	-	13.62			39.7
Refreshment Contributions		-	3.00	20.00	3.73	-	13.23			13.02	-		20.0
Seed Money Return		-		20.00	(699.01)	-	-	-	-	-			(699.0
Spring Conference Gain/Loss		-	-	-	(699.01)	-	-	-	-	-	-	- :	(699.0
Seed Money Return		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Fall Conference Gain/loss		-		-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-
Total Revenue	2,394.53	1,653.39	1,365.47	2,645.45	1,210.28	1,311.40	2,655.29	1,080.78	973.60	2,937.70	1,729.38	-	19,957.2
icer / Chair / Committee Expenses													
Delegate	-	-	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	516.97	-	102.00	-	1,618.9
Area Chair-Alt Delegate	-	-	705.00	129.21	274.35	-	-	-	382.84	120.00	-	-	1,611.4
Treasurer	-	-	216.00	244.00	298.00	-	-	-	391.00	153.09	-	-	1,302.0
Registrar	-	-	-	-	105.49	-	-	-	497.46	151.69	-	-	754.6
Secretary	-	-	-	-	283.70	-	-	-	426.00	-	-	-	709.7
Archives	-	-	55.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55.4
Corrections Committee MI	-	-	976.34	160.00	363.00	-	-	-	496.34	79.00	-	-	2,074.0
Corrections Committee WI	-	-	360.00	-	348.00	-	-	-	511.30	43.00	-	-	1,262.3
CPC Committee	-	-	-	134.00	367.46	-	-	-	-	-	499.96	-	1,001.4
Finance Committee Expenses	27.53	60.00	-	301.21	80.00	-	-	-	240.83	213.00	-	-	922.
Grapevine Committee	-	-	50.00	50.00	125.00	-	-	-	225.00	170.00	-	-	620.0
Literature Committee	-	60.00	63.00	-	139.00	-	-	444.97	459.50	125.00	-	-	1,291.4
Now &Then Committee	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	275.00	-	-	-	325.0
Public Information Committee	-	2,639.95	50.00	35.00	308.00	-	-	-	481.34	64.99	-	-	3,579.2
Struc & Guide Committee	-	-	140.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140.8
Treatment/Accessibility Committee	-	-	211.00	385.26	800.89	-	-	-	511.34	125.00	-	-	2,033.4
Total Officer / Chair / Committee	27.53	2,759.95	3,827.63	1,438.68	3,542.89	-	-	444.97	5,414.92	1,244.77	601.96	-	19,303.3
ner Expenses													
Seat Delegate	-	2,600.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,600.0
Registrar Internet	-	-	73.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73.8
Assembly & ACM rent	-	-	-	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	200.00	-	-	500.0
Assembly & ACM expenses	-	-	192.26	35.00	210.00	-	-	-	210.00		-	-	647.2
Conference seed money	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00	-	-	-	3,000.0
Other\Misc Expenses	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	643.30	-	-	-	643.3
ECR Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	-	100.0
ECR Trustee Travel (Election Assembly)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Central Regional Forum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	739.77	-	739.
Conf. of Delegates past/present Trustee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Convention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Convention Hospitality Room	-	-	ı	-	-	-	-	-	٠	-	-	-	-
Sec/Reg/Zoom computer OTE	-	-	-	529.58	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	529.5
	-	-	ı	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Expenses	-	2,600.00	266.10	864.58	210.00	-	-	-	3,953.30	200.00	739.77	-	8,833.7

Alcoholics Anonymous[®] www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all communications to:

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

November 17, 2023

To: GSB Trustees, AAWS Board, AA Grapevine Board, Trustees Emeriti, Appointed Committee Members, Current Delegates, Past Delegates, Past Trustees, All Conference Members, IGCOs: U.S. and Canada, International GSOs, GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Registrars, GSO/AA Grapevine Employees

Dear A.A. Friends:

As a Fellowship, we celebrate and recognize November as Gratitude Month. This is a time when we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Fellowship among each other, service on many levels, and many more. As the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), I'm grateful to see firsthand the many services GSO provides that support the spiritual purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers. These services assist the many facets of the A.A. program.

With the spirit of Gratitude Month in mind, I write today to share with you the difficult news related to the current financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the potential continued challenges ahead as we strive to fulfill our spiritual purpose. I hope this letter will be met with understanding, and that the honesty and sincerity in my heart are apparent throughout. The last four years have been very challenging for A.A. in many respects. This began with the worldwide shutdown in early 2020 due to the pandemic, which immediately forced nearly all A.A. groups to close their physical doors and either stop meeting altogether or find other means of gathering. This was followed by a slow return of groups meeting in person, an economy filled with uncertainty, and a workplace that changed in many ways. During this time, GSO and our Boards, like other organizations and businesses, were forced to change dramatically. We quickly transitioned to working 100% virtual to continue serving the Fellowship.

The office, along with the A.A. World Services (AAWS) and General Service Boards (GSB), have worked hard to manage our finances through these last four years with the hope that many of the challenges we faced would subside and return to pre-pandemic conditions. It is apparent now that the financial challenges we face cannot continue to be met with the deferral of essential projects and office development that are necessary to carry out Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference and support the vital services GSO provides.

Our tradition of self-support has always been vital to the health and future of the Fellowship and been our main source of income. However, there has always been a need for additional support from the sale of our literature. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, the initial impact on our revenue was significant, with a steep decrease in contributions. Income from sales of A.A. literature was also significantly reduced as sales came to an almost complete halt. The Fellowship responded with tremendous generosity, resulting in contributions reaching record levels. That continued in 2021, and contributions in 2022 nearly matched the 2021 level. This year to date, we are on pace to reach similar levels to the last three years. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and heartwarming.

Unfortunately, literature profits have not rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels. In addition to the slow return of sales, inflation has resulted in substantial increases in the cost to produce and distribute literature. Conscious of the challenges facing groups and members, the AAWS board held literature prices steady for as long as possible until earlier this year, when it became apparent the costs to produce and distribute were not going to

return to pre-pandemic levels. Despite increased contributions after the pandemic, the loss in literature revenue has left our total revenue short by

approximately \$1,000,000 compared with per-pandemic times.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on virtually all our expenses. Of note are increased costs related to meetings, events, and travel, which

are a key necessity to support the Regional Forums, board meetings, and the General Service Conference. However, we have managed to reduce total

operating expenses to an average of \$15,768,000 compared with pre-pandemic levels of \$16,258,000. Reducing total expenses below pre-pandemic

levels truly illustrates the diligence the office and the boards applied to the budget and operations to offset losses.

Because of the significant decline in literature sales and revenue and the large cash outlay needed to continue printing and distributing our literature, we

have also experienced a very tight cash position. Our reforecast budget for this year estimates a loss of \$997,000, after depreciation and the GSB

support of La Viña.

The office and all three boards have worked diligently to address these financial challenges. A systematic and dedicated approach to budgeting has

been developed over recent years and allows for the most informed group conscience possible. Throughout, budget managers and the AAWS Board

work together to find the most effective ways to prioritize and execute services, maximizing the use of each A.A. dollar. In addition to the annual budget

process, a reforecast is done midyear to adapt to the direction brought forth by the April General Service Conference and other factors impacting original

estimates.

As difficult as this letter is to write, I'm hopeful and optimistic for A.A.'s future. Together we can overcome the challenges we're facing. We need your

help to continue to adjust to and plan for the reality of current economic conditions and changes in our Fellowship. As members we often say that when

A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. This is one of those times. Your generosity has sustained us through very difficult times in the past. If

your group is able, in the spirit of Gratitude Month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board. You can make a contribution

through aa.org by clicking here or by mail.

Make your check payable to the General Service Board to:

General Service Office

P.O. Box 2407

James A. Farley Station

New York, NY 10116-2407

Moving forward, more frequent, and incremental contributions would be much appreciated as the office incurs many of its expenses during certain parts

of the year. In particular, many of our more significant expenses are incurred from January to May, due to planning, preparation, and operation of the

General Service Conference each April.

Attached to this letter you will find a summary of the operations of GSO and details of many of the vital services GSO provides. I hope this information

gives you a greater understanding of the vital work and services your contributions help to support. Thank you so much for everything each of you do for

Attachments: Summary of the Operations of GSO, Message from the General Manager

Alcoholics Anonymous.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.,

of In.

Bob W.

General Manager, GSO

12

U.P TRAVELING INTERGROUP

Where:

St. Michaels Catholic Church 401 W Kaye Ave. Marquette

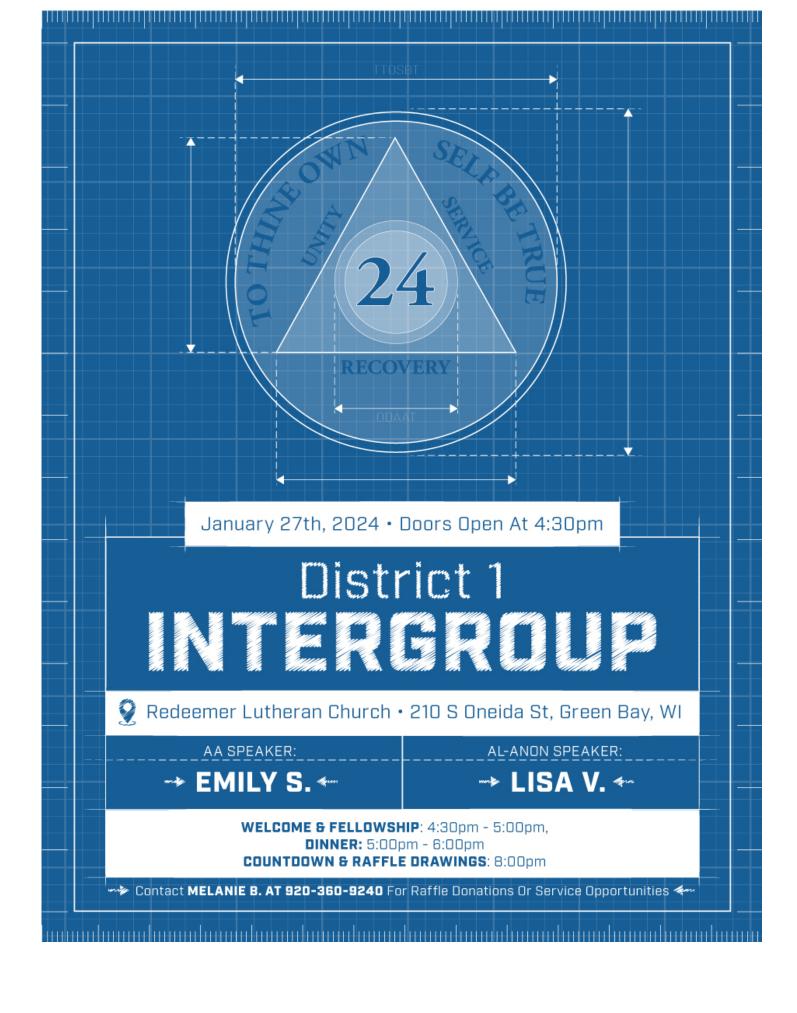
Sponsored by: Saturday morning underground groups

When: December 2th

TIMES: CORRECTIONS 4PM
GSR 5PM
Potluck Dinner 6pm

Al-Anon/AA Speakers 7pm





CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP

HELP US: CELEBRATE 24 YEARS

Keep The Date

Where: St. Stephen's Church
512 McClellan St.
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

When: Saturday, March 16, 2024 Dinner from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Main dish provided

Please bring a dish to pass

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Area 74 Service Speaker TBD

Main Speaker: 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Jeff C. Past Delegate Area 74 Panel 56

From: Sturgeon Bay, WI District 22



HYBRID EVENT: call Bob

This is a handicap accessible facility
Contact person: Bob D. (715) 297-7039

Now & Then P.O.Box 192 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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