

Area 29, Panel 72

February 2022

Delegate Report



It is 2022 and Panel 72 is now in place. Area 29 is blessed to have a wonderful collection of Trusted Servants...and I look forward to serving with you all. Thank you all for your service! As we all learn our new positions, I pray that we all exercise respect, patience, and tolerance, offering constructive suggestions and assistance along the way. And may we all once again thank our Panel 70 Trusted Servants, who did a wonderful job under exceptionally trying circumstances!

New & Exciting

With a new year having started our Area Chair, Brigitte F., has released the 2022 Calendar of Area Events. It is available on our website, Marylandaa.org.

Elections have been held for new Delegates and other Officers in 44 Areas other than our own. Meanwhile, at the General Service Board (GSB) and General Service Office (GSO) they are working diligently to accomplish all the work that was sent their way at the 71st General Service Conference. And preparations for the 72nd General Service Conference are well underway. It will be held April 24-30, in Brooklyn NY. This year there will be three international observers, two from Brazil and one from Argentina.

The General Service Conference uses the committee process to allow for thorough review of agenda items, and to get the work done. There are 13 standing committees, with each Delegate assigned to one or two. I have been assigned to the Conference Corrections Committee. I will be reaching out to those I know have been involved with Corrections in recent years. And if you've been involved with carrying our message into jails or prisons, or have recently been incarcerated yourself, and feel that you can help prepare me for my conference assignment, please feel free to reach out to me.

There were 178 submissions of proposed agenda items for the 72nd GSC. However, many of these were duplicates, and others did not make it onto the final agenda for various reasons. Over 80 of the submissions were requests to undo actions taken at the 71st GSC. The first year (of a 3-year trial) for the Equitable Distribution of Workload process has proven to be quite

Did You Know?

The AA Grapevine has a new podcast – the Half-Hour Variety Hour. It began on October 4, 2021, with a new episode each Monday. Each week Don and Sam interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner.

To listen go to: aagrapevine.org/podcast. To nominate someone as a guest, email: podcast@aagrapevine.org

challenging for those preparing the Conference Agenda. Nevertheless, after several early drafts were released in December and January, the final list of Agenda Items was released on Feb. 4th and sent out to all Area Committee Members. Then an updated Final Agenda was released on Feb. 9th. Background information was released on February 15th.

In 2019 Area 29 proposed an Agenda item to **“to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.”** We received a progress report on Feb. 11, 2022. The Trustee’s Committee on Public Information will be initiating a membership survey soon, with the questions currently being finalized.

Locally, the monthly Zoom meeting with DCM’s and their Alternates, begun during our last panel, will be continuing, albeit with a slightly different format. The first 20-30 minutes will be a recovery share, followed by open discussion on any topic pertinent to Districts. Meetings are at 9:00 AM the first Saturday of each month. If you are a DCM or an Alternate, and did not get an invitation, please get in touch with me.

General Service Board & GSO

Have you seen the newly revised [AA.org](https://www.aa.org) website? It has a much cleaner and simpler visual appearance, making it easier to find information. Behind the scenes are many technical and structural improvements. If you haven’t yet checked it out, please do. And feedback is welcomed at: <https://www.aa.org/website-feedback>. The most popular features remain the Sobriety Calculator and Daily Quote.

There is a new mailing address for sending 7th Tradition Contributions to GSO:

Post Office Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Opening contributions envelopes, scanning contents, and depositing checks into the bank requires two to three full-time staff and a significant amount of time. To save time and money, they are outsourcing this work to the bank which has specialized equipment and personnel to perform these tasks more quickly and at a lower cost. The bank requires the use of a unique post office box number for this service. GSO estimates that this change will result in a savings of approximately \$162,000.00 per year. Online contributions are still preferred, and can be made at [AA.org](https://www.aa.org).

Matt: My name is Matt and I’m an alcoholic

Operator: I’m sorry Sir. This is AAA, not AA

Matt: I know. I’m just explaining why my car is in a lake.

Due to the rise of the Omicron variant, the Office re-opening has been suspended. Although recent data seems to suggest that the latest surge in New York driven by the Omicron variant is trending downward, the Workplace Taskforce is drafting a travel policy and discussing the extent that the Office may receive visitors.

G.S.O. currently has a staff vacancy. Details regarding the position, and how to apply, can be found at [G.S.O. Staff vacancy](#).

The Fellowship Connection Release 3.0 launched on October 14, 2021. The following enhancements requested by the end-users during sharing sessions were included in the

release: new, user-friendly Dashboard, ability to automatically provide end dates to outgoing position holders, the ability for area registrars to see when the service kits were ordered, ability to choose to receive digital or physical kits or to opt out of receiving any kits. Delegates and DCM's have read-only access.

AA In the News

Corrections Today magazine, a quarterly magazine for corrections professionals has a nice article about A.A. in the current issue. A link can be found [here](#).

A new Corrections Correspondence System (C.C.S.) process launched September 28, 2021. The new process improves and expedites the matching of volunteers and persons in custody, provides statistics and reports, and generates personalized letters that can be sent by email to outside A.A. members and by postal mail to persons in custody. Since the launch, 267 were paired that for various reasons had been sitting in the old system. The latest edition of Box 459 has a very nice article, including contact information for those wanting to participate or learn more.

The Meeting Guide App has been updated. The newest release allows users to adjust the radius for meeting searches, and allows users to filter by in-person, virtual, or all. It also includes a News button, and a Daily Quote button, amongst other improvements.

An updated "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare" (SMF-209 Rev. 9-21) piece of service material has been issued. Significant changes were made, including adding information regarding the pandemic and diversity and inclusion concerns. Link is [here](#). This piece is currently undergoing additional review, with further revisions currently undergoing legal review.

Financial Update

This information (unaudited) is as of Dec. 31, 2021:

- Contributions: \$10.7 (107% of budget)*
- Literature Sales: \$11.7 million (103% of budget)
- Payroll & Benefits: \$9.3 million (98% of budget)
- Overall Expenses: \$15.7 million (99% of budget)
- Surplus YTD: \$2.0 million (267% of budgeted)
- Prudent Reserve: Approx. 8.5 months

** Highest level in the history of our fellowship*

Note: Online contributions 23.1% of total (2020 19.3%)

The annual audit is underway, and audited figures should be available for the GSC.

Publishing & Grapevine

The newly formatted AA Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition, has been released. The PDF format is a free download at [AA.org](#). The printed version is also now available for ordering at [AA.org](#).



Coming Soon from Publishing:

1. Our Great Responsibility – eBook format

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics:

1. March: Emotional Sobriety
2. April: What's on Your Mind
3. May: 12 Concepts 60th Anniversary
4. June: Oldtimers

Upcoming Grapevine Books, Planned for 2022:

1. *Fun in Sobriety* (due out April 23rd).

AA La Viña Upcoming Magazine Topics:

1. Mar. – Apr.: Newcomers
2. May – June: The Three Legacies
3. July – Aug.: Prison Issue

Upcoming La Vina Books, Planned for 2022:

1. *Emotional Sobriety* (Fall release)

Did You Know?

A.A. Literature is now available in 180 countries in 102 languages with 73 different language Big Books. Soon the Big Book will be in 74 different languages, with Haitian Creole on the way. 19 other languages are in various stages of progress

Prayer & Meditation, a new book from Grapevine, is now back in stock. It contains stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they pray and meditate in their daily lives. All stories were previously published in the Grapevine Magazine. Chapters include: daily routines, traditional religious practices, activities and exercise, personal techniques, the Serenity Prayer, and connecting with nature and the universe.

Free on the Inside features 50+ powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous who have experienced AA in prison—while either currently serving, formerly incarcerated, or as outside AA members carrying the message inside. Chapters include: finding AA in prison, staying sober inside, women helping one another, working the Twelve Steps, sponsorship and carrying the AA message into prisons.

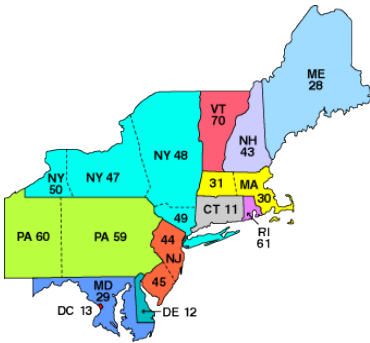
New audio recordings of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, are [available on CD](#). These new editions are available in English, Spanish, and French; and in abridged (without stories) and unabridged (with stories).

Plain and simple language Big Book translation update – The candidate pool of 18 responses to the Request for Information (RFI) for plain language interpreter-writers have been reviewed and narrowed down to six candidates. They were then assigned sample material on a work-for-hire basis. All candidates had a deadline of Jan. 3rd to submit samples for the complete chapter of “How it Works,” excerpts from “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “There is a Solution,” “We Agnostics,” and “To Wives.”

Mixed-Title Volume Discount Test Pilot – A six-month test pilot will run: March 15 - September 15, 2022. Orders will receive a quantity discount based on the quantity ordered for all titles combined, as opposed to purchasing a quantity of one specific title.

Implementation of “permanent” Reduced Shipping Charges – The schedule of shipping charges for A.A.W.S. literature that tested favorably during its five-month test pilot was implemented February 1, 2022.

Supply Chain Disruptions – Supply chain disruptions continue to be a challenge faced by A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. Hardcover Big Books have been out of stock, expected to be back in stock in mid-February. Grapevine’s newest book “*Prayer and Meditation*” sold out during November, despite a print run 60% larger than normal. Because many members and AA offices missed out on purchasing “*Prayer and Meditation*” during the free shipping period in November and December, Grapevine will have free shipping during the month of February 2022 for this and all products.



Northeast Region Update & NERD Happenings

NERAASA 2022, hosted by WPA Area 60, will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. Feb 25-27. This gathering of over 1,000 members of AA from the Northeast Region who are passionate about service to our fellowship promises to be informative and fun. More information and the program is available at NERAASA.org.

NERD (Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion) will be held in Sturbridge, MA, hosted by Areas 30 and 31, on March 11-13.

Area 45, Southern NJ will be hosting their annual convention in Atlantic City, NJ on March 18-20. This is a live event, with a virtual component. Registration is open.

I encourage all to peruse websites of neighboring Areas for more information on upcoming virtual and live events.

Outside our Region

Founders Day is back live for 2022, June 10, 11 and 12th, celebrating 87 years of our fellowship. Registration opens March 1, 2022. Visit foundersday.org for details and to register.

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) will be an online event March 4-6, 2022. Visit praasa.org for more information or to register.

Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARC's)

The 2022 CARC process is now underway, with planning ongoing. Our Alternate Delegate, Terry P., is coordinating this incredibly important process. Mentors and Leaders have been identified for all the CARC's. Please rely on the Mentors for advice or answers to questions, as they are tremendous resources. And keep an eye on the [CARC page](#) on our website for the latest information.

The output from the CARC's will feed into our annual Mini-Conference on April 9th. Terry P. has put together a great committee to plan this event, and preparations are well underway. Mark your calendars!

Travels & Activities

Dec. 4 – District 10 Meeting/Election
Dec. 6 – IG Liaison Mtg
Dec. 11 – Area Assembly
Dec. 17 – Balt. Institutions Committee Mtg
Dec. 19 – NERD/NERT Conf. Call
Dec. 28 – NE MD Intergroup Council Mtg
Jan. 16 – NERD/NERT Conf. Call
Jan. 18 – District 18 Meeting
Jan. 20 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Jan. 21 – Balt. Institutions Committee Mtg.
Jan. 22 – Area Planning Meeting
Feb. 6 – MGS Corrections Committee Mtg
Feb. 7 – Finance Committee Meeting
Feb. 8 – Delegates Meet & Greet
Feb. 9 – Delegates Meet & Greet
Feb. 16 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Feb. 19 – Area Committee Meeting

Feb. 20 – NERD/NERT Conf. Call
Feb 22 – CARC III Distribution Mtg.
Feb. 25-27 - NERAASA
Mar. 7 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Mar. 11-13 – NERD Get-Together
Mar. 21 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Mar. 26 – CARC III Mtg
Apr. 4 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Apr. 9 – Area 29 Mini-Conference
Apr. 18 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Apr. 22-30 – General Service Conference
May 21 – Area Assembly Report Back
June 24-26 – Maryland State Convention

**If you would like a visit to your Group, District or Intergroup please
contact me at: delegate@marylandaa.org.**

“To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self-sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action.”
– *Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 93*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt W.
Delegate
Area 29 Panel 72
Corrections Conference Committee
delegate@marylandaa.org

