

Area 29, Panel 72

March 2022

Delegate Report



Welcome all to our first Area Assembly of 2022, and Panel 72. I especially want to welcome those GSR's new to Area Service. We need you! 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 once again I'd like to 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.

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've been assigned to the Conference

Corrections Committee. If you've been involved with carrying our message into jails

or prisons, or have recently been incarcerated yourself, please feel free to reach out to me. And perhaps consider joining our Area 29 Corrections Committee.

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 challenging for those preparing the Conference Agenda. Nevertheless, we have the final list of Agenda Items and background information.



Copies of the Final Conference Agenda are available. If you'd like an electronic copy, contact your District Committee Member (DCM), our Alternate Delegate, Terry, or me.

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.

General Service Board & GSO

Have you seen the newly revised 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.

Did You Know?

Our General Service Office (GSO) currently has a listing of over 595 online groups. And more than 300 of them have registered GSR's.

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 required 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.

Return to the office: On March 14th, after almost two years of remote work, GSO and AA Grapevine took another significant step to fully return to the workplace. All employees returned to the office according to their hybrid work schedules. G.S.O continues to monitor state and local guidance, and safety protocols currently in place will continue to evolve.

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](#). Applications will be accepted through April 30th.

Fellowship Connection Release 3.0 launched in October 2021. There are many enhancements, including a new, user-friendly Dashboard. Delegates and DCM's have read-only access. Area Registrars can make updates. GSR's, to check your group's information for accuracy, reach out to your DCM. And if updates are needed, contact our Registrar.

The son went to his dad and asked him, "Dad, what's an alcoholic?"

His dad replied, "Do you see those four trees? Well, an alcoholic would see eight."

The son replied, "But Dad, I only see two."

A Call for Stories: The Black AA Experience: *A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic* is being updated. The working group leading the effort is looking for fresh stories. Deadline for submission is Aug. 31, 2022. Stories should be 500-900 words. If typed, 12-point font, double-spaced. If handwritten, approximately 5 to 6 pages. Contact pamphletstories@aa.org, Subject Line: A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic. Or write: Atten. Literature Assignment
General Service Office
Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York NY 10163

Two new Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been uploaded to our webpage at:

<https://www.aa.org/downloadable-videos>

- **Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party:** Illustrates how drinking can impact anyone, even young people, and can take over a person's life, emphasizing the hope and support available in A.A. for those looking for a chance at a new beginning without alcohol.
- **Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall:** Illustrates how drinking can build a wall of isolation and take over a person's life, emphasizing the hope and support available in A.A. for those looking for a chance at a new beginning without alcohol.

The long-awaited DVD featuring a tour of our General Service Office as well as the AA Grapevine Office is available as well. The disc includes a visit to the Archives along with interviews with our "Tradition 8 Workers" who help carry the message of AA to alcoholics who reach out for hope. The link is [available here](#)

Armed Forces Members Interview Project: The Trustees Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities is looking to do more interviews from sober members of the U.S and Canadian militaries. For details reach out to militaryoutreach@aa.org

Financial Update

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

- Contributions: \$10.7 million (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.

AA In the News

A new [comprehensive study](#) comparing Alcoholics Anonymous with other alcoholism treatments shows that AA is at least as effective as other forms of treatment, and probably more so, at much less cost.



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. April: What's on Your Mind
2. May: 12 Concepts 60th Anniversary
3. 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)

New and Updated Pamphlets Now Available:

1. P-25 Faith Leaders Ask About A.A.
2. P-91 Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions
3. P-90 Hispanic Women in A.A.

Prayer & Meditation, a new book from Grapevine, is 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.

Free on the Inside features 50+ stories by sober members of AA who have experienced AA in prison—while either currently serving, formerly incarcerated, or as outside AA members carrying the message inside.

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 was initially 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.” A vendor has now been selected.

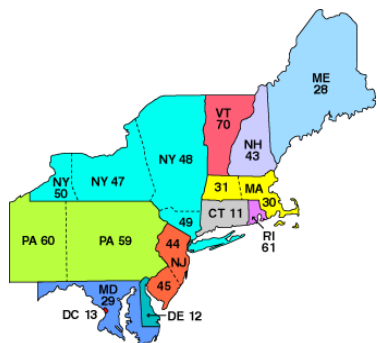
Mixed-Title Volume Discount Test Pilot – A six-month test pilot is currently running through September 15, 2022. Orders will receive a quantity discount based on the quantity ordered for all titles combined, as opposed to purchasing a quantity of one specific title.

Did You Know?

Our ***Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*** book is currently available in 51 languages, with 3 translations pending.

And ***Living Sober*** is available in 37 languages, with 5 translations pending.

Supply Chain Disruptions – Supply chain disruptions continue to be a challenge faced by A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. Hardcover Big Books were out of stock for several months over the winter months. They are now back in stock. Grapevine’s newest book “*Prayer and Meditation*” sold out during November, despite a print run 60% larger than normal. They are working through the disruptions as best they can. Please be patient.



Northeast Region Update & NERD Happenings

NERAASA 2022 (Northeast Region AA Service Assembly), hosted by Western PA Area 60, was held in Pittsburgh, Pa. Feb 25-27. There were over 700 attendees, a remarkable figure considering the circumstances. Everyone seemed to have a good time, finding it to be both informative and fun.

NERAASA 2023 will be Hosted by Area 48 Northeast New York (NENY) in Albany NY, Feb. 24-26, 2023. I hope to see many of you there. Registration is now open at: neraasa.org/register/2023

NERD (Northeast Region Delegate's Reunion) was held in Sturbridge, MA, hosted by Areas 30 and 31, on March 11-13. This was an opportunity for Past-Delegates from the Northeast Region to share their Conference experience with us new Delegates and Alternates.

Our Northeast Region Trustee (NERT), Francis G., will be rotating on after the 2023 General Service Conference. If you think you may be interested in serving in this position watch for the upcoming announcements in Box 459 and elsewhere.

Area 12, Delaware will be hosting their annual Convention May 21-22, 2022, at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center, Rehoboth Beach, DE. They will be featuring speakers, activities and fellowship! For pre-registration and hotel info. visit: deconvention.org.

I encourage all to visit 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 opened March 1, 2022. Visit foundersday.org for details and to register.

Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARC's)

The 2022 CARC process is now underway, with some meetings already held, and others upcoming. Our Alternate Delegate, Terry P., is coordinating this incredibly important process. Mentors and CARC Leaders are all doing a great job! 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

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. 6 – CARC I Distribution Meeting
Mar. 7 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Mar. 11-13 – NERD Get-Together
Mar. 15 – CARC II

Mar. 21 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Mar. 22 – CARC II
Mar. 26 – CARC III
Mar. 27 – CARC I
Apr. 4 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Apr. 9 – Area 29 Mini-Conference
Apr. 12 – District 36 Mtg.
Apr. 18 – GSC Corrections Committee Mtg
Apr. 22-30 – General Service Conference
May 21 – Area Assembly Report Back
June 6 – Intergroup Liaison Committee
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
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