

**Area 61 Assembly
Via Zoom
June 12, 2021 Minutes - DRAFT**

Area Chair instructed participants to rename themselves and designate as voting or non-voting member by inserting a “1” or “2” in front of their names, and outlined additional meeting protocol.

Introductions – First-time Assembly attendees were invited to introduce themselves. 63 in attendance at peak.

Serenity Prayer

Secretary’s Report - Anne M. – Reminded all that Assembly minutes were circulated, and are on Area website. Presented minutes of April 10, 2021 Area Assembly.

- Area Chair reiterated Assembly voting criteria.

Minutes approved 28-0-1.

Treasurer’s Report - Joe H.

Joe H. presented:

- April report (Exhibit A):
 - Expenses: \$3052.85
 - Income: \$1878.56
 - \$9211.99 over \$10,000 prudent reserve
- Preliminary May 2021 report as of 5/17.
- Finance Committee summary report (Exhibit B)

Question regarding \$100 received from Dartmouth. Treasurer has reached out to inquire, but has not received a response.

Treasurer’s report accepted unanimously 32-0-1

Delegate’s Report Steve L. reported (Exhibit C):

Deferred report to General Service Conference report-back later in the agenda.

Alternate Delegate’s Report – Alison H. reported:

Addressed rotation of service positions as an important part of our fellowship – sharing responsibility for AA. Rotation helps forego ego, freeing us all to serve where we’re needed. Rotation means we are temporary stewards, knowing that down the line somewhere else will share the responsibility. It’s time for all of us to start thinking, talking and praying about what’s next. This fall, Area and district committees will elect officers, to be effective January 2022. She has found access to resources so easy – General Service Manual, revised Area 61 guidelines, pamphlets on various positions, etc. We have a deep bench of members who have served in all positions. Encouraging all to reach out to them to ask questions and seek information, and to rotate in any direction other than out.

Archivist Report – Don B. reported:

Currently working on a “Covid history” survey – distributed to Area and posted to the website, intended to capture what our groups did during the pandemic. Got the idea at NERAASA, and learned at NERF that many Areas are undertaking the same project. Coordinating with ISC to get more archival material and information on Area website – should be under “Archives Committee”. He continues to go through boxes of cancelled checks, bank statements, etc., and has destroyed about half of the nine or ten boxes of that information. There are also audio recordings of the last two longtimers’ panels on the Area website.

Convention chair is also working on similar pandemic history for Archives, and wonders if other committees would consider the same.

Registrar’s Report – Donna T. reported

On May 6 participated in a sharing session with GSO staff and records department regarding Fellowship Connection. Good session to learn about kinks in website and getting more technical support. Working on conforming district naming conventions that yielded twice the number of actual districts in the Area. Donna continues to reconcile as changes to system and information continue to evolve, and working through list of 69 groups and their “open” or “closed” status. Groups wishing to change their status should use the form on the Area website. Info will be forwarded to Area Registrar. DCMs have access to Fellowship Connection, and Donna will provide link to ensure access.

- Q. Should GSRs be the ones to complete group forms on Area website?
- New GSRs should be referred to Registrar.

Group/District Concerns

- Kent County Apponaug GSR has concerns regarding revised preamble, but will raise them after the Delegate’s report-back.
- Treatment Chair has openings for virtual commitments.

District Reports

District 1 (2nd Tuesday 7pm) – April Y. – DCM / Mike C. – ADCM

April reported: Met on 6/8, 11 in attendance. Treasurer had question about \$300 check that was sent. Will wait for Treasurer to review mail. (Treasurer confirmed receipt.) Has several committee coordinator positions available.

District 3 (3rd Tuesday 7pm) – Nat S. – DCM / Vacant – ADCM

Nat reported: District 3 meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm

1. For Apr and May 9 and 12 attendees, respectively.
 - a. Our next meeting will be this coming Tuesday, June 15th.
 - b. This will be our first hybrid status, meeting both on zoom and in person at the Area 61 office.
2. Started using a google group to communicate with each other. Allows someone to send an email to everyone.
3. We are still looking for an Alt DCM, hopefully we will have one after our next meeting!

4. Thank you to D2/4 and all the DCMs for putting on such a wonderful JOS.
5. For those who were not aware, Chris C. passed away last week. Thank you for everyone who showed up to the services.
6. We still have quite a few Area Committee positions open, hoping we can get them filled soon!

District 4&2 – vacant – DCM / vacant – ADCM

Judith reported: Met on 6/10, with five in attendance – largest to date. Actively seeking people to fill open positions, and planning for next district meeting on 7/14 to find someone to at least fill DCM position. Alison displayed flyer currently on website encouraging all in District 4/2 to participate. Expressed thanks to Judith and her group.

District 5 (4th Tuesday 6pm) – Jackie R. – DCM / Peter C. – ADCM

Jackie reported – Met on 5/25, nine in attendance. Distributed funds to service entities, left with prudent reserve. Starting to think about December Joy of Service. Extended welcome to new GSR in D5.

District 6 (2nd Thursday 7pm) – Kurt A. – DCM / Keith R. – ADCM

Kurt reported: Met on 11/9, 18 in attendance – held at Area office. Much discussion regarding changes to meeting venues (online v hybrid v in-person). Wants to reach out to GSRs for increasing contributions. Working on D6 guidelines review. In process of preparing for Joy of Service – flyer to come shortly. Sat 8/14 in Goddard Park with guest speakers, ideally committee chairs, plus cook-out and fellowship.

District 7 (3rd Thursday 7:30pm) – Tina B. – DCM / Nancy – ADCM

Tina reported: Workshops prior to business meetings currently focusing on Traditions. Still planning for July Joy of Service. District picnic will be held on 8/22, 12-4, at Burlingame. Flyer to come.

District 8 (1st Thursday 7pm) – Enrique S. - Chair of Spanish Intergroup
Not present - No report.

BREAK

Delegate's Report-Back – Steve L.

Prefaced presentation with statement that Bill W. was a visionary, and Steve's belief that this Conference was closer to what Bill would have wanted. (Theme – AA in a Time of Change)

LUNCH BREAK

Committee Reports

Corrections (3rd Wednesday 6pm) – Pride I. - Chair / Felicia – Alt. Chair

Linda reported: Standing by for reopening. Ordered 25 Behind the Wall pamphlets. Continuing applications, and trying to boost newcomers – getting quite a bit. Corrections flyer brought in a lot of new people. Approvals keep coming in. Boosting volunteers for ramp-up once we are allowed back.

CPC/PI (4th Thursday 7pm) – Bob H. – Chair / Vacant – Alt. Chair

Bob H. reported: IN middle of successful project to get copies of the Big Book and 12/12 into libraries. Contacted 25 libraries, positive responses from about 19 of them. Working to get elderly-related pamphlets into place. Also working on getting ads in RING local newspaper groups – initially, Warwick & Cranston. Also getting ad into Bristol July 4th parade book. Working on participation in Rally for Recovery.

Grapevine (2nd Monday 7pm) – Kerra – Chair / Bob P. – Alt. Chair

Kerra reported: Grapevine Committee Report – Kerra M

Our last meeting was held on May 10, 2021. 7 people were in attendance, including Steve, our Area Delegate who hosted the virtual meeting. One new Grapevine Representative joined the committee since we began meeting virtually. Most recently, Grapevine provided free access for Founders' Day. La Vina is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Info available at lavina@aa.org. Donated two subscriptions – to Convention newcomer, and to AdCare, noting discount when purchasing more than one gift subscriptions. Grapevine is not supported by groups, but by sale of Grapevine items. Committee will continue to meet virtually.

Information Services (2nd Wednesday 6pm) – Andy L. – Chair / Becky T. – Alt. Chair

John E. reported: ISC doing a great job, record traffic – first month with over 31K page views. Friday update has over 1400 subscribers. In last few months, have worked with Archives committee to post longtimers' panel recordings; worked with Corrections Committee to reach out to members wanting to bring commitments into prisons; helped Convention Committee reach out for participation for planning for next year. Continuing to reach out to all Area Committees to offer support. For specific, more immediate needs, members are encouraged to contact the webmaster.

Treatment/Accessibilities (1st Monday 7pm) – Jason D. – Chair / Dean P. – Alt. Chair

Prescott reported: Still open time slots for nightly virtual commitment. Butler currently trying to transition from Covid guidelines to greater participation. Jason is working with Community Care Alliance.

Convention (1st Wednesday 7pm) – Mary K. – Chair

Mary K. reported: 2022 theme will be "Together Again." Dates 2/11-13. Will be going to Marriott in Newport, ready to sign a contract. Blown away by how nice it is – even better set-up than Gurney's. Rooms will be \$119/night, plus tax (good price). All the rooms have a view. Need volunteers for registration to shadow outgoing registrar to be ready. Registration should go out in August/September. Only 600 registrations, so do register early. Will have 2-night minimum for rooms.

RISCYPAA, (1st Sat, 6 pm) – Sam G. – Chair / Brian - Alt. Chair

Sam reported: Thanked Steve for his service, and everyone for their work. Committee is fully hybrid. Must put forward bid in March for EACYCAA, and need all the help they can get.

Archives (4th Wednesday 7pm) – Nancy R. – Chair / Vacant – Alt. Chair

Nancy R reported: Thanks to Steve and Alison. Met on 5/26, had a new attendee. They may have an Alt Chair. Shared feedback on 5/15 panel – overwhelming success. Thanks to ISC for making recording available so soon. Continuing to meet with ISC to post other archival materials on Area website. Next committee meeting will be hybrid at Area office.

Central Service

Hebert reported: Thanks to Steve for great presentation. Office is fully-operating for literature, cards, medallions, etc. Listing meetings on website. Holding off on print versions of meeting lists until meetings are more settled, but paper copies of in-person meetings are available. Receiving 5-6 calls a day about meetings returning to in-person. Golf scramble big success - @89 attended. Open mic night still taking place – next on 7/15. All info available on Central Service website, which has been updated. Info on fellowship picnic and Block Island events available on Central Service website. Groups can contact Central Service if they want to change meeting status.

Southern RI Intergroup

Shirley reported: Office is open for literature, etc. Hours are limited, but people should call for info.

Rotation and Continuing Service

Alison included in Alternate Delegate's report.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. GSR for Kent County group spoke regarding proposed gender-neutral changes to literature. Referred to Conference background material and letter from GSO staff member regarding same. Identified concern regarding reference to other entities seeking to de-genderize literature, including, e.g., the New York Times and their changing practices and styles.

Kent County group conscience: Wants to make clear the group supports diversity and inclusion, but is concerned about Tradition implications of de-genderizing AA literature. De-genderization is direct conflict with Tradition 10. Proposing that GSO/Grapevine allow individual groups to decide on which preamble to use. Requesting actions to change preamble be reversed.

Motion: The changes to the preamble be reversed.

No second to the motion.

Member asking for demographics of the group who brought forth the motion. Member was invited to reach out to the GSR directly. GSR took exception to the question.

2. Return in person for October Assembly.
Area Chair not sure whether within her purview, but prefers to leave to the group.

Motion: Area Assembly will meet in-person for hybrid meeting in October

Motion seconded.

Discussion:

- Wi-fi is available at St. Kevin's.
- Important that we meet in person, even if in hybrid, because it will be election assembly. Otherwise, we will have to set up an entire election process, which is complicated.

- Voting mechanism would still have to be provided for those attending virtually.

**Motion passed 21-2-0.
No minority opinion.**

Cook-off will be pasta.

Ask-It Basket

No virtual ask-it basket, but members can ask questions. No questions submitted.

Upcoming Events

- Finance Committee Meeting – June 20, 7pm
- Area Committee Meeting – June 27, 7pm
- District 6 Joy of Service – August 14, 10am, Goddard Park
- District 7 Picnic – August 22, 12-4, at Burlingame Pavilion

Anniversaries

Bob H, 3, June 12
Paul, 40,, June 2
John E, 22, May 18
Tricia, 13, May 17
Jessamyn, 2, May 1
John N, 6, May 13
Annee, 19, May 1
Jeff, 3, Feb 28
Linda, 5, Feb 9
Alcoholics Anonymous, 86, June 10

Meeting closed with Responsibility Declaration.

(Minutes prepared by Anne M., subject to approval at October 2021 Area Assembly.)