

NORTH CAROLINA

General Service Committee

Chair
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Raleigh, NC 27606
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Secretary
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Harrisburg, NC 28075
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DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

TO: GSRs, Alternate GSRs, DCMs, Alternate DCMs, LCMs (Local Committee Members), Convention Chair and Alternate, Coordinators, Officers, Past Delegates and any other interested members!

SUBJECT: **Area 51 Virtual Fall Committee & Election Assembly Meeting**
October 31st-November 1st
“It Works Under All Conditions”

Via Zoom

ZOOM MEETING LOG IN: 656 316 7536
PASSCODE: 924686

Assembly handouts can be found on www.aanorthcarolina.org. Be sure to check a few days before the Assembly to gather all the information you will need.

When you log in to the meeting please name yourself with: **First Name, Last Initial, and Service Position.**
Ex. Julie R. – Area 51 Chair or Julie R. – GSR, Turningpoint, D35 or Julie R. – Member, Turningpoint

Third Legacy Elections for the Panel 71 Delegate Term

Please see Election Handout on Area 51 website for duties and responsibilities of Trusted Servant positions. We will stay in session Saturday until the elections are completed.
Assembly Business Sessions, Workshop, and Speaker Meeting

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

<i>DAY</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>ATTENDEES</i>
Friday October 30, 2020	8:00 – 10:00 PM	Area Committee Meeting	Area Committee <i>(DCMs, Alt DCMs, Coordinators, Officers and Past Delegates)</i>
Saturday October 31, 2020	7:00 AM	◆ Morning Meditation Meeting	All are welcome
	WORKSHOP		All are welcome
	9:00 – 10:00 AM	◆ “How the Election Assembly Operates”	
	11:00 – 6:00 PM	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSION <u>The Assembly will stay in session until all Elections are complete</u>	All are welcome <i>(Voting members: DCM (or Alt-DCM in absence of DCM), GSR (or Alt-GSR in absence of GSR), Coordinators and Officers)</i>
Sunday November 1, 2020	8:30 – 9:30 AM	OPEN SPEAKER MEETING Panel 71 Delegate-Elect	All are welcome
	10:00 – 11:30 AM	ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSION	All are welcome <i>(Voting members: DCM (or Alt-DCM in absence of DCM), GSR (or Alt-GSR in absence of GSR), Coordinators and Officers)</i>

BELOW ARE THE MAIN MOTIONS FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 FALL ASSEMBLY PRESENTED WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION. THERE ARE SEVEN (7) KNOWN AGENDA ITEMS. *Note: These items may appear in a different order on the Assembly agenda.*

AGENDA ITEM #1: That the Area 51 Nominee for Southeast Regional Trustee be Jennifer D. of Wilmington, NC.

Background Information: Every four years, a new Southeast Regional Trustee and a new Trustee-At-Large U.S. are elected at the General Service Conference. The next such elections will be held at the 2021 Conference. Area 51 may nominate one candidate for the regional trustee position and one candidate for the at-large position. We may not nominate the same candidate for both positions, and we do not have to nominate anyone at all. Any candidate we do choose to put forward must be selected no later than our Fall 2020 Election Assembly. Requirements for trustee positions are stated in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Anyone meeting these requirements may be considered for nomination by Area 51. Prospective candidates were required to submit resumes to the Area in the format prescribed by G.S.O. Traditionally, in Area 51, trustee candidates are elected by the Area Committee using Third Legacy Procedure. The candidates are then presented to the Assembly for approval. In 1996, the Area Committee recommended that trustee nominations be handled by the Committee. The Assembly concurred unanimously. In 2000, the Area Committee offered the Assembly the option of “add(ing) the election of trustee candidates to the agenda of the Fall Assembly.” This motion failed, was reconsidered, and failed again.

The election of trustee candidates was conducted by Third Legacy Procedure at the Summer 2020 Committee Meeting. Jennifer D was elected as a prospective candidate for Southeast Regional Trustee and is presented to the Fall 2020 Election Assembly for approval.

AGENDA ITEM #2: That the 2021 Area 51 Corrections Conference, “The 33rd Freedom from Bondage,” be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, N.C. on March 12-14, 2021.

Background Information: The Area Committee and Area Assembly must approve the proposed location and dates of the annual Area 51 Corrections Conference.

AGENDA ITEM #3: That Area 51 request GSC to allow participation of all virtual groups not affiliated with a physical meeting space by creating a 94th Area to our Service Structure that will encompass those A.A. groups.

Background Information: This motion comes from District 18. Currently there is no way for a virtual group to be registered with GSO, have a group number, or a voice in AA affairs. While many of the new Zoom meetings are affiliated with face to face meetings, there are also virtual meetings which serve a need in AA but are not associated with a home group that has a GSO number and listing. In addition to the new meetings created in response to COVID, the On-Line Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA) has supported virtual meetings for years. Allowing them to have a GSN would ensure their voice in the AA service structure.

The OIAA Directory features 1,000+ online AA meetings worldwide, ranging from video or telephone conferences to email or chat groups in many languages, available 24/7.

Virtual groups utilize technology to conduct their meetings.

- Current technology in use includes video conference platforms such as Zoom, phone conference, message boards, email listservs, chatrooms. As technology evolves, the tools Alcoholics use to get and stay sober will undoubtedly change.
- AA is not a place; a home group doesn't need a permanent physical address.

- Our service manual states “the home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure.” Service Manual S25
- Tradition 3 states “any two or three alcoholics may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”
- Providing a Group Service Number for Virtual Groups creates communication from the GSRs through the Delegate to GSO.
 - “The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group’s thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegate, who passes them on to conference.” Service Manual S26
 - “To assure direct and regular communication between the group and GSO, each group is assigned a service number.” Service Manual S28
- The A.A. virtual population has grown but their voice is not heard through a Delegate.
 - “If the A.A. population seems to have grown to the point where the current delegate and other trusted servants can no longer provide adequate service and communication, there may be local interest in forming a new area. In such a case, the area committee or committees involved may write to G.S.O. and request an application for an Additional Delegate Area.” Service Manual S42
- Are we including the whole fellowship when virtual groups are excluded from the service structure?
Concept 1: The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Since all Areas are autonomous, the new Area should organize in the way that is most effective for the groups and members involved.

By allowing virtual groups to become part of the service structure, AA as a whole will benefit from the unique experiences of members that are unwilling or unable to attend traditional meetings. In addition, members that are only able to attend virtual meetings will become knowledgeable of the larger AA world and resources available to them through GSO.

"Nothing matters more to AA's future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination." -- Bill W., The Grapevine, November, 1960

AGENDA ITEM #4: Increase the website budget (currently \$1,500) by \$1,200 resulting in \$2,700 for the website. The original \$1,500 is to put the aanorthcarolina.org onto a hosted server, to provide optimal speed and performance for our website, and to add or update software as needed. The additional \$1,200 will provide monies for web hosting support, or to hire the services of a qualified webmaster.

Budget impact \$1,200. Prudent reserve impact \$600.

Background Information: The currently budgeted \$1,500 covers the dedicated server cost, and the cost of the currently active plugins (JetPack, Give, SmartyPants, CSS Hero, Timely Venue and WP Forms Pro). When moving to a dedicated server, the webmaster will need experience on a Linux operating system, and maintaining a staged approach in order to keeping a live site stable, while introducing changes in a more controlled environment. To this end, the proposed addition of \$100 / month for the webmaster or other specialized support person will provide support of the website, and the various plugins. The subcommittee has canvassed other areas, and found that several other areas provide such monetary support to the webmaster, if they are appropriately specialized in the web hosting needs. The compensation ranges from \$250 / year to \$1,800 / year). The website subcommittee feels that \$100 / month is a reasonable compensation, in keeping with the language in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (p. 169) "“Right

contacts with the outside have to be maintained. AA lifelines have to be tended. So we hire AA staff members.”

AGENDA ITEM #5: That Area 51 will conduct an Inventory no later than the Fall 2023 Assembly. The Inventory will take 4 hours and will be open to Area 51 A.A. members. The inventory will consist of a series of questions to be considered by all participants in breakout sessions followed by a general sharing session. These questions will be provided at the Assembly prior to the Inventory, as well as on the Area 51 Website. To ensure wider participation, AA members who cannot attend the Assembly will have the ability to review the questions and submit their responses to the Chair 30 days prior to the Assembly.

Background Information: Inventories have traditionally been held at all levels of the service structure, including groups, districts, areas and the General Service Conference. Area 51 conducted an inventory at the 2013 Fall Assembly. Prior to that, it had been 2 decades since our previous inventory held in 1993.

The Area 51 Chair charged the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee (G&M) to create an agenda and schedule for the next Area 51 inventory with a plan covering the timing, methodology, content, and scope of participation to be submitted to the Area Committee and Assembly for approval.

The G&M subcommittee has been looking extensively at other Areas in the US and Canada who have conducted inventories. Along with Area 51, 5 other Areas were surveyed who have conducted inventories in the past 4 years resulting in a wealth of ideas and suggestions for use in developing the inventory questions. Once developed, the questions will be presented to the Area Chair for any additions or deletions and final approval. The Inventory Questions will be ready for distribution at the Assembly prior to the Inventory.

At the conclusion of the Inventory, G&M will present those responses identified as concerns requiring follow up to the Area Chair to determine what action might be needed. As a result of our 2013 Inventory, the P3 manual was developed and the Unity Fund was established for groups who financially could not attend Assemblies. The inventory also changed the eligibility to stand for Area office by increasing eligibility to two Delegate terms.

Borrowing on the success of the 2013 inventory, there seems to be no need to change the 4-hour time frame within the Assembly agenda to conduct the inventory. The schedule for the Assembly, including the 4-hour time slot for the Inventory, will be determined by the Area Chair.

This motion comes moved and seconded from the Growth and Maintenance subcommittee.

Budgetary Impact: There are no budgetary impacts to conduct the inventory. It will be held during an Assembly, using the space contracted with the hotel.

AGENDA ITEM #6: That Area 51 request to add "One Day at a Time" to the set of five slogans the GV currently has for purchase (MS-04).

Background Information:

The slogans currently distributed by the *Grapevine* first appeared in five issues of the magazine between late 1956 and early 1957. Here is a list of which slogans appeared in each issue:

September 1956: Easy Does It

October 1956: First Things First

December 1956: But For the Grace of God

February 1957: Live and Let Live

March 1957: Think, Think, Think

The first two are listed in the table of contents of their respective issues as “Watchwords for Sobriety.” Additionally, these two issues (September and October 1956) also contain instructions for ordering the slogans. “One Day at a Time” is a common A.A. slogan that is utilized through the fellowship and frequently seen in Grapevine articles.



AGENDA ITEM #7: To approve the Area 51 2021 Proposed Budget.

Background Information: The proposed 2021 budget is based upon items that have already been approved by the Area Committee or Assembly and cost estimates for the 2021 year. Copies of the proposed 2021 budget will be distributed at the Area Assembly Meeting. It was approved with substantial unanimity at the 2020 Summer Committee meeting.

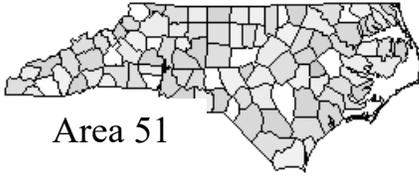
In Love and Service,

Julie R., Area 51 Chair

Anna R., Area 51 Secretary

NOTE: *Starting in 2021 with the new Delegate’s term, the Area will be changing the postal mailings policy. We will no longer be requiring people to “opt out” of postal mailing, as everyone will be “opted out.” If you require Postal Mailings, you can “opt in” via the Registrar to receive mailed copies of the Notices and Minutes.*

ALSO: Coordinator workshops will be held on November 15th. See attached flyer!



Area 51

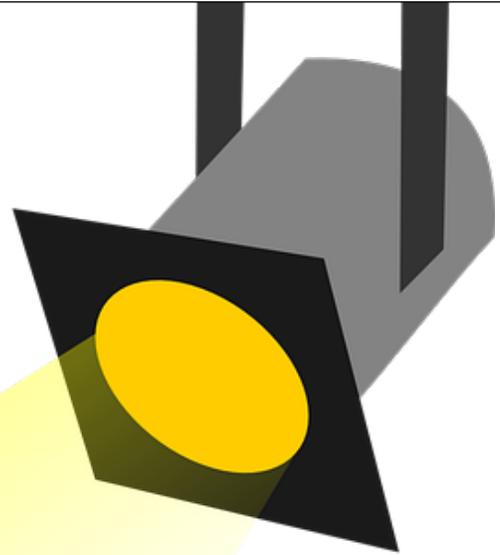
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SERVICE COORDINATORS

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Zoom Meeting Login: 656 316 7536

Passcode: 924686

**Get Involved! Be Informed!
Join us in Service in Area 51**



TIME	TOPIC	COORDINATOR
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Corrections	Angel S.
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Treatment Facilities	Marty M.
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Accessibilities	Pat B.

- Want to find out more about service work? How you can get involved?
- **Come for One or Stay for All!**
- Corrections: How to Correspond With Our Members Inside the Walls and Transition to Virtual Meetings.
- Treatment Facilities: How to Carry the AA Message in Treatment Facilities and Bridging the Gap.
- Accessibilities: How to Make Your Homegroup Accessible to Everyone.
- Meet our Area 51 Coordinators and hear about what you can do in North Carolina