



AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2021

Area 11 General Service Committee

Links to information:

Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/smf-209_en.pdf

Safety Card for A.A. Groups

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroup_s.pdf

FAQ on Practicing the Seventh Tradition at Virtual Meetings

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/SMF-223-FAQonVirtualBasket_en.pdf

Information on Anonymity:

https://aa.org/pages/en_US/anonymity-a-vital-spiritual-principle

Go to ct-aa.org for updated meeting information including virtual video conferencing meetings and temporary meeting closures

Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve!

Words cannot even begin to express how grateful I am that you elected me to serve as your Area 11 Panel 71 Delegate. Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life. I would be nothing without A.A. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be of service to the entity that spared me from having to continue to live the existence of unthinkable horribleness that I once endured.

Service takes many forms. It is important that we always stay mindful of this and continue to encourage each other to be of service in the ways that work best for us. As Bill W. said: “an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.’s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.” – *Reprinted from page S1 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service manual with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.*

I joined A.A. at a very young age. I recall one time, early in my A.A. journey, heading into a meeting ten minutes after it started. I had already felt insecure about my age and now I felt even more insecure because I was arriving late. I walked in to find approximately several people sitting around a table, taking turns reading from a piece of A.A. literature. Everyone in that meeting was perhaps at least three or four decades older than me. I walked in and froze in the doorway. It felt like everyone was looking at me. My mind then raced viciously. “They hate me. I’m late. They think I’m too young and am in the wrong

place. Why am I even here? Why bother showing up late—I should not have even come here.” I was about to turn around and walk out the door. Before I left, one of the elder members waved at me and motioned to an empty seat. During those early days, I was particularly impressionable. I may not have stayed without that kind act.

I have been the recipient of many acts of kindness and many forms of service. People answered my phone calls at 2am when I wanted to drink. A sponsor spent an enormous amount of time with me. I looked meetings up in a hard copy schedule booklet (formerly the primary method of looking up meetings)—an item that did not create itself. Before joining A.A., a professional had strongly urged that I attend—a professional that was perhaps influenced by a member of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee. When traveling, I have rarely had difficulty finding meetings because of the work of local service committees. Any one of us can look at our own experience and see the enormous role that service played in our own recovery.

From greeting the newcomer at the door of your home group to serving on A.A.’s General Service Board—and everything in between—it is all service and it is all necessary. I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities in A.A. and I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve in yet another. We all have a part to play to help make recovery possible for the next sick and suffering alcoholic. We can always encourage each other in service—to do our best in whatever role we are assigned for the moment. It is all so necessary. Not to mention—it helps us.

Panel 71 Conference Committee

Conference Committees (Generally): – At the annual General Service Conference, Delegates are assigned to a particular Conference Committee (and, in some cases, two committees). During the Conference week Delegates meet in their committees and discuss the agenda items that correspond with their committee in significant detail. The committees then present their recommendations to the entire Conference body for discussion and vote. Committees may also make “additional considerations.” See Chapter 8 in the A.A. Service Manual for more detail on Conference Committees.

Agenda Committee (Area 11 Delegate Assignment): Your Area 11 Delegate has been assigned to the Conference Committee on Agenda. This Committee “Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire.” – *Reprinted from pg. S62 of the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

G.S.B., G.S.O./A.A.W.S., & G.V. Updates

Regional/International Events

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) 2021:

The amount of travel time has never been shorter!!! This will be the first virtual (online) NERAASA!

February 26, 27 & 28

Registration is now open!!

<https://www.neraasa.org/register>

Register early to save your spot!

It is especially helpful to register early if you have accessibility needs so that requests can be accommodated. Spanish-speaking members are encouraged to register as early as possible to make sure there are enough interpreters.

Save the Date: Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) June 4th-6th:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums

UPCOMING AREA 11 EVENTS:

AREA 11 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 27th (ONLINE)! Details to follow! Save the date!

“The area **assembly** is the **mainspring** of the Conference

structure.” -Reprinted from page S36 from the 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual with permission from A.A. World Services, Inc.

General Service Board Updates

General Service Conference – The 71st GSC will happen April 18-24 online. Final agenda items & background material gets distributed in February.

Technology – Three Trustees’ Committees are currently looking into developing podcasts: Public Information, Grapevine/La Viña, & Literature.

Archives – Regarding the creation of an “A.A. Comes of Age Part II” of sorts—while no General Service Conference Advisory Action has yet resulted in this, the Trustees’ Committee on Archives has nevertheless begun to look into it because of the interest.

Literature – The Trustees’ Committee on Literature is moving forward with creating an updated version of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic;” a progress report will be given to the 71st General Service Conference. The Trustees’ Committee on Literature is also discussing with A.A.W.S. Publishing the possibility of making literature available in various formats.

International Licensing/Translation of Literature – Big Book translations into Tatar (Russia), Oriya (India), and Ukraine are being worked on.

Finance – A Finance Advisory Team was recently instituted and includes the A.A.W.S. C.F.O. and the A.A.W.S. Treasurer.

Public Information – After the implementation of Google AdWords, there seemed to be a significant increase of traffic to aa.org (although we cannot know the cause in any certain terms).

A.A.W.S./G.S.O. Updates

New “Fellowship Connection”

Database— Regarding the database used by all of the Area Registrars, what was formerly My Portal is now Fellowship Connection. This went live on December 14 and is now available to Area Registrars.

Training sessions with G.S.O. staff and Area Registrars have taken place. For more information, visit:

https://aa.org/assets/en_US/en_FellowshipConnection.pdf

Latest Box 459—If you have not yet read the latest issue of Box 459, please know that it contains some excellent information.

To read it, go to

https://aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_holiday20.pdf

Corrections Desk—The G.S.O. Corrections Desk provided an activity update. Local Corrections committees continue working on creating ways to carry the message, despite the inability to physically enter facilities during the pandemic. For example, one local Corrections Committee created a video about Alcoholics Anonymous that could be played throughout a facility. Some committees have successfully brought virtual meetings inside of facilities. That said, the role of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine/La Viña Literature play an ever-important role.

New Book Available for Pre-Order: Limited Edition Book on the Virtual History of A.A. is available for pre-order. For more information, visit

https://aa.org/assets/en_US/en_AVisualHistoryofAAsouvenirbook2020-2021.pdf

New Staff—New staff members have begun working at the G.S.O. include Amy B. and Area 11’s very own Craig W.

A.A. Grapevine/La Viña Updates

Carry the Message Project—One way to help support the A.A. Grapevine/ La Viña (and carry the message), is through the Carry the Message Project. Individual A.A. Groups and Members might consider purchasing subscriptions of the Grapevine and/or La Viña for friends, sponsees, doctors’ offices, halfway houses, etc. For more information on the Grapevine Carry the Message Project, visit <https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/2020/mar/2020-carry-message-project>. Please also visit <https://www.aalavina.org/> for La Viña information generally.

Please feel free to copy this report and circulate it as needed within A.A. Groups, Districts, and A.A. Service Committees.

Mary E.K.

Area 11 Alternate Delegate, Panel 71
alt-delegate@ct-aa.org

Matt K.

Area 11 Delegate, Panel 71
delegate@ct-aa.org