

## Delegate Report August 7, 2021 Area Committee Meeting

Good morning Area 86. I am an Alcoholic; a member of the Fellowship Group in District 19 and I have the privilege of serving as your Panel 70 Delegate and my name is Sandi W.

I would like to welcome everyone to the August Area Committee Meeting, especially those members that are joining us for the first time. We are so happy that you are here. I know there has been many changes this Panel and I want to thank all those members that have served but found it necessary to step down, the members that continue to serve and those that have just been elected during the Panel. We are working our way through these challenges and learning so much as we continue on our journeys.

So here we are meeting again for the 7<sup>th</sup> time in a Virtual Room. I don't think any of us thought it would have lasted this long but here we are. We continue to meet, do the work and ensure that the message is carried to the still suffering alcoholic. From the bottom of my heart, thank you Area 86.

I know a lot of us are tired of these Virtual Rooms but they have also given us the opportunity to venture out of our Area. I hope you are trying new things, checking out different groups, events, and service days. There is so much love, hope and experience out there. I will share on a few things I have attended and I hope to get to more. We can learn so much from other Areas and their members.

Since the May Area Committee Meeting things did become a little quieter. I have continued to forward all correspondence that I receive to the entire Area Committee. These emails are always to be shared with your Districts. Communication is so important and it is our responsibility to get the information out to all of our members within Area 86.

Saying this, I had offered to present the Delegates Report Back from the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference to any District or members that were interested. I had one Group that invited me to present with a question period that followed. The members were interested and had some great questions.

It is my hope that Area 86 looks at how we have our Delegate report back to the Area. Past Panels have had the Delegate Report at the May ACM and then again at the Fall Assembly. Isn't it old news by November, 6 months after the Conference?

As DCM's did you forward the Agenda and the Background information to your Districts? Did you encourage the GSR's to share it with their Groups? Did any of the Groups discuss it that you are aware of? I ask these questions to get us thinking and talking.

Some Areas assign each District a Conference Committee and they do a "deep dive" into the background information. They get input from the members that is then passed

along to their Delegate. I bring this up as something to think about because your thoughts and ideas matter and your voices need to be heard.

As Delegate I wanted to hear from as many members as possible. Thank you to all of the Area Committee that worked so hard to put on our Workshops and to all the members that participated. I also am so grateful to the dozen or so members that reached out directly to me with their thoughts and feelings on the Agenda items.

So on with my report, since the May Area Committee Meeting...

May 15<sup>th</sup>. I attended the North/South Connection Forum and it was fabulous. There were people there from Argentina, Chile, Iqaluit, Alaska, the Antarctica and everywhere in between. We, as in North America, did not host this event but we will be hosting on December the 11<sup>th</sup>, Bill W's Birthday, a virtual Pan Continental Special Forum. Mark your calendars you won't be disappointed. It is so interesting to hear how AA is working in other parts of the world and what people are doing to stay connected.

I hear some of our members complaining about Zoom and not being able to get together in person...some of the members that shared had to travel miles to get to a phone or to a place that the internet was stable enough to get on to a virtual meeting and even then, they could not use their cameras. The cost also is an issue for these services or as was pointed out in Chile the country is long and narrow and there isn't a train service from one end to the other. I left the day feeling inspired, amazed and so grateful. To be honest I was ashamed of the times I was too tired to walk out my door and go to a meeting or log on. These people do go to any lengths and I know I can do better.

I spent some time attending the Northeast Regional Forum June 4-6 and again so thrilled to see our staff and Trustees using the technology to reach out to our Fellowship. There is always so much to learn and I made sure I was there to hear our new Chair of the General Service Board, Linda Chezem, give her first welcome at a Forum.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from the newly hired General Manager for the General Service Office, Bob W. Some of us had the pleasure of meeting Bob at a Service Day hosted by Districts 5 and 9 a few years back. He is a wonderful member and I believe an excellent choice was made hiring him.

The next Regional Forum being held Virtually is the West Central on September 10-12, 2021. All you need to do is visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) and click on Regional Forums at the top. All the dates and information are there. If you plan to attend, please pre register and you will receive the login information closer to the date.

Speaking of Regional Forums, ours, The East Canada Region, is still scheduled for May 13-15, 2022 in PEI. Fingers crossed it will be a go. I hope some members from Area 86 plan on attending.

Highlights from A.A.W.S. June 25, this is always such an informative read. Did you see under Administration that a motion was made and seconded that “the General Service Board affirms that all employment opportunities offered by A.A.W.S. or AAGV include Canadian citizens and will explore the best path forward to accommodate legal and / or other requirements.” If you have ever thought of applying to GSO this will be of interest to you.

We have continued to meet bi monthly with the CERAASA Steering Committee and I will be giving an update a little later.

Jeff will be giving us an update on the ODC and we have met a few times with the Delegates and Alternate Delegates of Ontario (4 Areas) to discuss the future of the ODC. There will be a motion presented at the Fall Assembly to hold a Virtual Delegates Orientation the opposite years of CERAASA, more in my update.

I received a memo Friday from Patrick C. announcing Staff Rotations as of August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A revised staff assignment list will be sent out soon so please watch for it. This was Patrick signing off as Conference Coordinator and I would like to thank Patrick for all his hard work during his time serving as Conference Coordinator and especially since March 2020. I can not imagine the stress and learning curve he and the staff went through. Anytime I sent an email I always received a speedy reply and more times than not he picked up the phone and called me. Steve S. is the new Conference Coordinator and I am certain he will do a fabulous job.

Last weekend was Board Weekend and our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee, Jan L. has been busy this week preparing her report. Jan sent me her preliminary report yesterday so I could share a few of the highlights here with you today. I will forward Jan’s final report as soon as I receive it.

Contributions year to date are \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000 and \$911,513 more than this time last year. The Fellowship is amazing and I know Area 86 is doing its part, thank you.

Gross literature sales year to date are \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000 and \$837,572 more than last year.

June gross sales were \$981,496, just missing becoming the second month over a \$1 million since February 2020. (Not counting February 2021, which was skewed by recognizing the pre-order revenue for the souvenir book.).

Gross sales in July as of the 16th are \$587,275, placing literature on track for a \$1 million month in July.

We have been experiencing delays with the printing of A.A.W.S. literature due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Intergroups and Central Offices have been kept up to date and it has been posted on the webstore. Two of our key printers have experienced

severe outbreaks with tragic consequences and this has caused ongoing disruptions to the manufacturing and printing of our literature and other items.

The Communications department is busy with the new website but also with many other projects such as: Podcast pilot development, preparing to host and stream audio files from a new vendor, Class A video usage, Google Ads, Google Analytics, LinkedIn and of course continuing with the updates for the Meeting Guide App to mention just a few.

The receiving, sorting, distribution and shipping of mail is now being done at GSO, this after more than a year of it being handled remotely at the mailroom manager's home.

You have been hearing about the new Service Manual 2021-2023 and how excited we are for the members to see it ...well here is an update. The cost is \$4.00 US, it will be produced in one size only, 8½ x 11 and this is not large print. This edition has colour and graphics and it was determined that having this "medium" sized version would be the best fit for the Fellowship.

We are hoping to see the online PDF on Nov. 5, 2021 and the print version on Nov. 26, 2021.

There are 3 new pamphlets in production: "Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions", "Hispanic Women in A.A. and "Access to A.A. Members Share on Overcoming Barriers".

This is just some of the items in production please see Jan's final report for the whole list and preliminary timeline release dates.

The big news out of the Grapevine is they hired Chris C. to be the Publisher of the AA Grapevine effective Aug.15, 2021.

A subcommittee was formed on Conference improvements, one of which was alternating the General Service Conference between virtual and face-to-face format. This will be discussed further in October.

The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process has begun and a subcommittee is in place due to the importance of ongoing evaluation of this process during the first-year implementation. This is a reminder that all Agenda items are to be submitted by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and note this is a change from the December 31<sup>st</sup> date that we are used to.

The 2025 International Convention is to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. A call went out for "Name that theme." Over 100 suggested themes have been submitted thus far. Put on your thinking caps it isn't too late, you have until October 15.

Public Information Committee also discussed the 2021 PI committee consideration that a PowerPoint presentation be developed for PI and CPC committees for the purpose of providing shared experience on "how to" present about A.A. at non-A.A. events. There will be a progress report in October.

The discussion has begun in regards to holding in person Board Weekends, starting in October. The decision will be made by August 21.

As I said these are a few of the highlights, Jan's report is almost 16 full pages! They were very busy and covered a lot of business so please take the time to read it and share it with your Districts.

The Final Conference Report will be available on line later this month and the hard copies will get delivered to me around August 31<sup>st</sup>. Again DCM's please think about how many copies you need for your Districts and share this with the incoming DCM's. These cost a lot of money to produce and then of course ship. I will be making arrangements to get them to each District and I hope I can get some help as I did last year. If you or someone you know is coming through Oakville or close by and travelling to another District, please reach out to me. I can meet you and you can become a part of the AA Service Train. I had a lot of help last year including from the London Intergroup where I left some and the surrounding Districts made arrangements to pick them up from there. Thank you in advance.

What an exciting time of year as the Groups and Districts begin to hold elections. Please continue to raise your hands, and share with other members the positive things about service. The people we get to meet and travel this wonderful journey with. Maybe there is a member that would be interested in getting involved but they don't know how or need a bit of encouragement.

Thank you to all those that allow their names to stand and I wish you all the best of luck.

We will be holding Elections at our Fall Assembly for the 5 Officer positions for Panel 72 as well as electing our Nominee Candidate for the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Position. Please get the word out to your GSR's, their vote matters.

Thank you to the Districts that continue to send out their minutes. To those Districts that do not it is never too late.

To my fellow Officers thank you for always being there and having my back. It is a joy serving alongside of you.

Thanks to our Zoom techs today, Dale S. and David N.

If I can be of any help please email or call me anytime. [Area86delegatep70@gmail.com](mailto:Area86delegatep70@gmail.com).

Oh, and just because we are virtual Area 86 you still ROCK!

Gratefully yours in love and service,

Sandi W.  
Panel 70 Delegate  
Area 86 Western Ontario  
Conference Trustees' Committee