

Delegate Report November 6, 2021 Fall Assembly

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

I would like to welcome everyone to the last Assembly of Panel 70. If this is your first Assembly welcome, we are so glad that you are here. I think that we all wish we could be meeting in person but I for one am very grateful that we have found our way in this virtual world and we are staying connected and are able to carry out the work of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I offered to all the Groups and Districts after I presented the Conference Report Back at the May Area Committee Meeting (ACM) that I would gladly present whenever asked virtually. It is a long time between the Conference that is held in April to the Fall Assembly. I would like to thank both the Stoney Creek Group that held a special meeting and District 11, who invited all the Area to hear the presentation. I believe we were able to answer a lot of questions and give clarification to some of the information that was being circulated.

As your Delegate it is my responsibility to report back to the Area so I will be doing a shortened version covering some of the topics that I received the most questions and comments on.

As with all positions that I have had the privilege to serve in, it is when I rotate out that I have a better understanding of the role. What works and perhaps what could be improved on. I have heard Past Delegates share over the years on the importance of getting the agenda items and background information to the members. I also found this extremely important and I must admit frustrating. I believe we can do a better job getting the members in Area 86 informed and involved with providing feedback to the Delegate to take to the Conference.

Our Officers and Sub Committee Chairs worked hard to put on workshops and to try to get the information shared. I sent all the background to all the Area Committee and asked that it was shared with the Groups but not to be posted on websites or social media. Thank you to our Committee Chairs and to the DCM's that took the time to share the information. A huge thank you to everyone that participated and shared their thoughts, I really appreciated the help.

Other Areas have a few Districts come together and split up the agenda items. They then hold Service Days and Workshops to discuss the items. This allows for some members to do a "deep dive" into the background and present it to the others at these events and then report back to the Delegate. Your voices need to be heard.

Other Areas have a password protected place on the Area website that members can go to.

For reporting back to the Area...how can we get this important information out in a timely manner? Again, some Areas have Service Days, where a few Districts gather and have the Delegate present their Report Back. They usually have other Service Presentations and of course a Q & A.

Our members are interested and deserve to receive the correct information prior to August when the Final Reports usually become available. Some things to think about for the future perhaps.

Speaking of the Final Report, digitally it is available on the Area website, area86aa.org. and I did send it out. The hard copies have been getting delivered with the help of Canada Post (I was able to ship to 4 Districts for free or for a minimal cost with a promotion Canada Post was offering), and with the help of some fabulous DCM's. The London Intergroup has again allowed us to use them as a drop off and pick up spot so thank you for your help. There are 5 Districts left and I hope to have those delivered by next Sunday.

A special thank you to Gene, Gudrun, Tim, Ted, Carole, Miranda and Alberto who all helped to get the reports delivered.

I would like to welcome our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee, Jan L. to our Assembly. Jan is not a stranger to Area 86 as she is a Past Delegate, Panel 54. We really had hoped to be meeting in person so we could all get a close up view of Jan's enthusiasm and dedication to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. We will be hearing from Jan a little later and though virtually, I'm sure you will see and feel her energy.

Jan has just returned from the October Board Weekend which was held "live" in New York with a virtual component. Jan did not attend live but was able to attend virtually with others.

Jan will be meeting with the Eastern Canada Region (Delegates and Alternates) tonight to go over her report. Please look for Jan's report later in the week but in the meantime, she shared a few highlights with me so that I could include them in my report today.

Reduced Shipping Charges: there was a test pilot for reduced shipping charges that ended on Oct 18 which was a huge success. The A.A.W.S. Board approved the recommendation brought forward by the Publishing Committee that the reduced shipping test pilot be implemented as policy for the publishing department.

Conference

The Conference Assignment was overwhelmed for sure with the implementation of the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process by Sep. 15th, 178 proposed agenda items have been submitted (some on the same items).

General Service Conference

The committee is working on a draft 2022 GSC week schedule. No definites yet if it is in person, hybrid or virtual.

There were several agenda items regarding online groups that were forwarded to the GSB adhoc committee that was just formed that will be exploring ways for virtual groups to participate in the U.S./Canada general service structure.

Finance & Budgetary

Unaudited financial results for September 30, 2021. Gross literature sales year to date are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. Contribution's year to date are \$7,416,647, which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$293,439 more than this time last year.

Total operating expense for the period ending September 30, 2021, is \$11,543,559 which is 73% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$512,887 less than last year.

The combination of the above revenues and expenses resulted in G.S.O. reporting a preliminary surplus of \$1,448,089.

Grapevine financial results:

The **unaudited year end results** for the period ending September 30, 2021.

Total income for the first nine months of the year was \$1,500,920 which is \$402,655 more than budgeted.

Total costs and expenses of the magazine for the first nine months were \$1,221,103, which were \$115,347 lower than budgeted.

After adding interest earned, there was a net income for the period ending September 30, 2021, of \$279,817 compared to a budgeted net loss of \$238,185.

The Phase II – Special Forum – North/South Connection that was originally slated for Dec. 11 of this year has been moved to sometime in June of 2022.

So, onto the Conference Report.... *At this point I presented a shortened Power Point of the Delegate Report Back from the 71st General Service Conference. I have added the original for the minutes and it can also be found on the Area website, area86aa.org under the Delegates Page, "Post Conference Spring Report".*

As this is my last report to the Assembly, I would like to thank each member that has given of their time to serve. To the Groups, Districts, Round Ups and Special Event Committees that have invited the Area to participate in your Inventories, Celebrations, and everything in-between, thank you. It is not the way we planned to see each other but you guys stepped up and figured it out.

The DCM's and Alternate DCM's started meeting bi-monthly and I am so happy that they have continued this valuable meeting. To see how you have all connected and are eager to help one another is the true meaning of love and service.

I have really missed the hugs, road trips, discussions in the hallways, the laughter and of course sharing of meals. Service is a lot of fun and we had to miss out on some of that but more importantly service is a responsibility. Area 86 thank you for continuing to serve to ensure the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is here for the next person that may need it.

To the members that were here at the start of Panel 70 and for personal reasons had to step down, thank you for being a part of the journey and to those that stepped up to fill the many vacancies that Groups, Districts and the Area had to deal with, thank you.

To my fellow Officers ... Janice and Jeff you both showed so much strength and determination these past 2 years. We will always have a very special connection and I love you both and can not think of anyone I would have rather gone through this with. Thank you for your support.

To Tammy and Dan that joined us mid Panel, thank you for your eagerness and for jumping in with both feet. You both have always been supportive and willing to do what was needed.

Jeff spoke about the A.A.W.S. report that we played in Intergroup and yes, we have 2 dates to show it. Saturday November 27 at 9:30 and Wednesday, December 1 at 7:30.

I will send out an Invite after the Assembly. Please encourage our members to attend as Beau B. does a fabulous job. Beau finishes with something he heard Lepita say at PARAASA and it can be found in our Big Book, Forward to the Second Edition, page xix.

“But out of this frightening and at first disrupting experience the conviction grew that A.A.’s had to hang together or die separately. We had to unify our Fellowship or pass off the scene.

As we discovered the principles by which the individual alcoholic could live, so we had to evolve principles by which the A.A. groups and A.A. as a whole could survive and function effectively.”

Please let us continue to Unify this wonderful Fellowship.

To those that will allow their name to stand tomorrow or in December at the ACM I wish you all the best. Please keep raising those hands, we need you.

Thank you to our Zoom techs that are here helping us this weekend. Kimberley and Rob from Area 83, and our own David, Dale and Percy.

If I can be of any help please email or call me anytime. Area86delegatep70@gmail.com.

And I didn't forget, Area 86 you ROCK!

I will never forget the journey that you, Area 86 allowed me to travel and I will be forever grateful.

Yours in love and service,

Sandi W.

Panel 70 Delegate

Area 86 Western Ontario

Conference Trustees' Committee