

Delegate Spring Assembly Report 2021

Good Morning Area 86, I am an alcoholic and I currently have the privilege of serving you as your Panel 70 Delegate and my name is Sandi W.

Well, here we are a year later. Before writing this report, I went back and read the March and November 2020 reports that I presented to the Area. We had no idea what was to come and how it would be handled. So much has happened over this past year and yet here we are still carrying out the business of Alcoholics Anonymous. Before I go any further, I would like to thank all of the members of Area 86 that have continued to carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic.

The phones are being answered, meeting information and websites updated, virtual meetings are being hosted and chaired, some in person meetings are continuing while following the guidelines laid out by the Government and their meeting facility, Round Ups, Service Days, business meetings and Workshops have been moved to a virtual platform. Literature sales, though we saw a huge decline, continued and are picking up again, Archives are busy collecting so we can record what happened and how we got through this pandemic. We continue to communicate with Corrections, Treatment and Detox Centres asking what we can do to get meetings back in via virtual or in person or at least get literature into our inhouse members. Alcoholics Anonymous is surviving and though we are all missing our in-person meetings we have adjusted to what needed to be done, knowing it isn't forever.

Proof of this comes directly from our General Service Office. The call went out that contributions were needed due to the sudden and drastic drop in Literature sales. The Fellowship stepped up and responded. Usually, the revenue split between gross profit on literature sales and contributions is 58% literature to 42% contributions but the split in 2020 ended up being about 37% literature and 63% contributions.

The following is from the January Board meeting:

“Contribution revenue in 2020 reached an all-time high of \$10,304,185, which is \$417,930 greater than the reforecast. Great gratitude was expressed to the Fellowship for contributing \$1,442,421 in December to propel Seventh Tradition contributions past the \$10 million mark for the year.”

From Jan L., our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee's report “When reporting out to your Areas please convey our deepest gratitude to all for their contributions to our Fellowship. It is truly heart warming.”

This is an incredible feat and thank you Area 86 for all your contributions. We have a healthy Area and I know our Groups, Districts and members contribute directly to GSO and participate in the birthday plan. To each and everyone of you that contributes to the 7th, I would like to sincerely thank you. We don't just recite the Responsibility Declaration we act on it here in Area 86.

Since the last Assembly... The first ever Virtual Forum was held, Eastern USCAN December 5th followed by the Western USCAN December 19th. I attended both these events and they were incredible. I would like to thank our staff that have worked so hard this year. This was a huge undertaking and I thought they were both full of information and so much fun. If you did not attend please go to aa.org and click on the Regional Forums tab that is located on the home page below the Meeting Guide App. All four of the 2021 Regional Forums will be held Virtually this year so think about attending one in another Region. All you need to do is register (NO cost) and the link will be sent to you just prior to the event. If you want to learn more about what a

Regional Forum is there is a wonderful video that you can watch.

Our January ACM was of course held virtually and it was great seeing everyone. We held the elections for 4 Sub Committee positions. It has been a difficult year and we have had quite a few people that for personal reasons chose to resign. I would like to thank all these people for their service and wish them all well.

Congratulations and thanks to Joanne L., Public Information, Trevor W., Corrections, Ann Marie L., Co-operation with the Professional Community and Ken G., Accessibilities/Remote Communities for stepping up and being willing to serve. Thank you to those that will allow their name to stand later today for the Treatment Sub Committee Chair position.

January was busy with many virtual meetings preparing for the Orientation and the Board Weekend. As I have the privilege of serving as the Chair to the Conference Trustees Committee, I had the pleasure of being invited to an Orientation Session and to Board Weekend. The Orientation was held on January 22 and Board Weekend began on the 29th. I wanted to share this experience with you and this is part of my report back to the Conference Trustees' Committee.

This last weekend was incredible to witness. The Delegate Chair met with the Delegate Conference Committee Chairs twice (the ones that were available) and we were able to share our experiences, thoughts, and feelings. We were all amazed at the dedication, knowledge, and time commitment the staff and Trustees' put forth serving Alcoholics Anonymous. We all agreed that we wanted to try to convey what we saw and felt to the rest of the Delegates on the Committees we serve with and all the members in our Areas.

So here goes...

We began at the Grapevine Quarterly Meeting on Friday, January 29th scheduled at 10:00 AM-6:00 PM. This meeting was very informative and I was thrilled to see all the work that Grapevine is doing with Corrections (please see report from our Regional Trustee for details). There was a General Sharing Session from 7:00-9:00 PM with 2 brief presentations on "Communication up and down the Triangle" and the floor was then opened for sharing. Saturday morning started at 8:45 with an A.A. Meeting before the Committees began meeting (2 per session). We were encouraged to attend as many as we wanted as observers so off I went. I was in Corrections at 10:00, Public Information at 1:00 and then Nominating at 4:00 where I had a voice but no vote as the Conference Trustees' Committee Chair. The Trustees Nominating Committee is the Committee that the Conference Trustees' Committee works with.

The hospitality suite opened at 7:00 for a half-hour prior to the 1728 Meeting (12 Steps x 12 Traditions x 12 Concepts). We enjoyed presentations on Tradition 12 and Concept 11 and the floor was opened for sharing. The meeting ended at 9:00 PM and as we are not a glum lot, we had some fun. Our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee had arranged for a Kahoot Trivia game challenge and this was a hoot. Jan had been in attendance at the D 18 Round Up and she took their idea all the way to the Board Weekend. I know the Trustees and staff must have been tired but quite a few stayed and we really had a lot of fun and many laughs.

Sunday was a short day for us, I attended the Archives Committee Meeting at 10:00, Hospitality Room in between, and then at 1:00 I was in Finance and Budgetary. During all the meetings I saw and heard nothing but respect for the process and the people they serve with. All the Chairs for the Trustee Committees made sure the Delegates Conference Committee Chairs were made welcome and encouraged to speak.

I had an opportunity to meet with Ward Ewing, a Past General Service Board Chair and Class A Trustee in a Breakout Room. This allowed me a chance to thank him as he attended Unity Day that was hosted by Areas 8 and 86 when I first became involved in service. This was my first

introduction to a Class A Trustee and he touched my heart and left a huge impression on me. It was actually emotional seeing him again as I was filled with gratitude and disbelief. This was a very special moment and one that I will always remember and cherish.

The Delegate Chair, Donny M., sent out an Invite to the Delegates that were available and we met at 5:00 PM for just over an hour. This gave us an opportunity to get to know one another a little better. We all expressed our thoughts and feelings, and generally speaking, we all were feeling pretty much the same things. A lot of love and gratitude. We then called it a day but some of the staff and Trustees were still working.

Monday, the last day and the GSB Meeting. The meeting began at 1:00 PM and was scheduled until 3:00 PM but it went late. I believe we left around 4:30 and then an Executive Session was to continue.

Donny had sent out a second invite as a few of the Delegates were unavailable on Sunday. We still could not get everyone there but a couple more joined in.

I felt quite emotional signing off from the Board Meeting. I know some of these people are staff and are paid for their work but they go above and beyond. They are humble, hard-working, and mostly found in the background. Some of the staff live in Studio Apartments so there is no escape from their work. They see their desk, which may be their kitchen table, all the time. No one complained about what they were dealing with, in fact, the love, laughter, and concern for one another and Alcoholics Anonymous was evident.

I came away inspired, recharged, exhausted, grateful, happy, and emotional. Watching the process was phenomenal. As we say "Trust the Process" and I saw this first hand and how well it worked.

I hope I have been able to give you a glimpse into the weekend. I sent Jan L.'s detailed report of the weekend to the Area on February 9th, 2021. If you did not receive it please contact either your DCM or myself and I will be happy to forward it to you. (After writing this report I received the Quarterly Report sent out) it out yesterday).

I will be forever grateful to Area 86 for the opportunity to serve you. I never dreamed that when I took on my first service position as set up coordinator for my Home group I would one day be serving as your Delegate and attending Conferences and a Board Weekend. So you, yes you out there, keep raising your hand because you never know what can happen.

At the beginning of February, the Final Agenda Items were posted to the Dashboard. This begins the wait for the Background Material. Most of the Background Information was posted February 15th and I began sending all the Sub Committee Chairs their appropriate material. I sent all of the Background Information on the 15th to the Past Delegates and fellow Officers.

I then got busy preparing my presentation for our 1st ever Eastern Canada Delegates Orientation that was held February 27th. Thank you to Jan L. and the Committee for putting this together for us. All the Delegates and Alternate Delegates from the 10 Areas in the Eastern Region participated as well as some Past Delegates. With CERAASA being postponed there was nothing in place for this year and these events are invaluable with helping the Delegates prepare for the Conference.

It was a great day and I was thrilled to see 32 different members stop in to visit and participate.

Our Alternate Delegate, Jeff did a fabulous job presenting “Recovery in a Changing World”. I will send out the minutes once received.

Our Pre-Conference Workshops kicked off on February 23 with the Alternate DCM School and I hosted the DCM school on the 24th. Thank you to Amanda T. DCM D18 for her help as Zoom Tech and Gudrun M., DCM D11 who took the notes for us. We had 19 DCMs in attendance and 5 Visitors. We discussed the upcoming Assembly before watching a video presentation about the Big Book. We discussed some questions and I sent the Video out to all the DCMs to discuss with their Districts. It was noted that the video is for the Fellowships use only and not to be posted on websites, social media sites or shared outside of the Fellowship.

I am thrilled to report that to date 3 Districts got together and had a “movie morning” and 2 other Districts are looking at showing it also. Please ask your DCM if you would like to see it or contact me and I will send it to you.

We discussed the DCM / Alternate DCM Meetings and everyone present was in favour of continuing with the bi-monthly meetings. Some of the comments shared were that they are very beneficial to the new DCM's, they promote Unity especially now that we are not meeting in person at the ACM's and Assemblies. There was a request to rotate days due to peoples work schedules and commitments, everyone was in agreement and the meeting was very positive. I felt a sense of pride knowing that as these DCM's work their way down the triangle they are focused on Unity, team work and Service...sounds just like our Three legacies doesn't it? Recovery, Unity and Service. As I have been heard to say once in a while, Area 86 Rocks and this is why!

March has continued to be a busy month with virtual meetings and reading to prepare for the Conference. Over the years it has been confusing if the Background information was to be widely shared within the Areas. After listening and seeing what other Areas do, I did send out **ALL** of the background to the Area on March 5th. I don't expect you to read it all but my hope is that the DCMs have shared it with you the GSRs and you the GSRs have shared it with your group members. If not why not? This is our Fellowship and we need to be informed. Please again contact either your DCM or myself and I will send the information to you. I know we can't expect people to read it all but how about looking through it and finding something that interests you or you have experience with. Read that item and share your thoughts. Again, this information is NOT to be posted on websites or social media sites. There are hyper links throughout the Background, just click on it and it will take you where you want to go.

I would like to thank all of the Sub Committee Chairs, Officers and Past Delegates that have worked hard and participated in hosting the Workshops and to you the members that have taken the time to attend. I am looking forward to receiving all the notes and feedback to take with me to the Conference. Your voices are important.

I was granted read only access this month to the Fellowship Connection site as were the DCMs. Exciting times to see things all come together and I look forward to spending more time checking it out and printing reports.

Greg T.s last day as General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO) was February 1st. I had the opportunity to thank Greg for all his hard work on behalf of Area 86 and wish him well in his future endeavours at the Board Weekend. Stephanie L. is acting Interim GM at GSO as the Interview process continues.

Finally, I will be doing a Delegates Report Back at our May Area Committee Meeting. Last year we scheduled two report backs splitting the Districts up. This was due to the change of date of the Conference, going from an in person to a Virtual Conference. If any Districts would like to get together and have me do a report back virtually on another day after the ACM please let me know and I would be happy to.

I want to thank, Dale S and Percy G. that will be conducting the Election later today. To Dave C and all the Zoom techs that have again offered their service to help us have a safe and productive weekend, thank you.

As always, a very sincere thank you to my fellow Officers for their help and support as we travel through these new and challenging times.

And most importantly thank you Area 86, for allowing me this incredible privilege to serve you and Alcoholics Anonymous. I will do my best at the Conference and I will carry you all with me.

As always please continue to send your Districts minutes as they help us all stay connected and this is so very important and if I can be of any help please email or call me anytime.

Gratefully yours in love and service,

Sandi W.

Panel 70 Delegate

Area 86 Western Ontario

Conference Trustees' Committee