

January 14, 2023

## Delegates Report January Area Committee Meeting

Hello friends I am an alcoholic member of the Prince George Group District 21 Hamilton Mountain. I currently have the honour and privilege of serving as your Area 86 Western Ontario Panel 72 Delegate and my name is Jeff Stephens. I would first off like to extend my appreciation to Martin, Karen, and all their crew for hosting us here today in District 3 for our Area 86 Area Committee Meeting. I would also like to take a moment to wish everyone a happy new year and hope you all had a joy filled holiday season. I would like to welcome any of the new people joining us here today along with visiting members. You will be given an opportunity to ask questions at the appropriate times during the proceedings please do not hesitate to ask myself or any of the area officers during breaks and we will try our best to accommodate.

I will begin this report by letting you know that it was not all turkey and fixings since our area assembly in November. I have been busy making arrangements to head to New York for the January General Service Board weekend. This takes place to allow for the thirteen delegate committee chairs to sit in on the various trustees committee meetings this then will help to formulate the different workshops, presentations, and agenda items for the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference in April. Next Friday there is a virtual orientation meeting scheduled from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm which the delegate chairs there alternates the trustees and the General Service Office (GSO) staff all have been invited to participate in prior to heading to New York. I was also asked to give a 15-minute presentation at the 1728 meeting in New York. This meeting is an opportunity to explain the 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts to our class A trustees and how we AA's put them in to practice.

Following our Fall assembly, we had a virtual meeting with our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Joyce S. you guys remember her from the assembly right. Joyce gave her report from the October General Service Board weekend. I sent the report out to you guys on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and if you recall it was 32 pages in total. I will not go over Joyce's entire report but will cover some of the points of interest. The GSO (AA General Service Office in N.Y.) reopened to visitors October

5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. **Contributions:** Year-to-date contributions are \$7,386,529. This represents 67% of the reforecast budget of \$11,000,000 (with 75% of the year elapsed) and is \$30,118 less than last year.

**Publishing:** The Mail and Shipping team of two managed 9,184 pieces of incoming mail and 2,975 pieces of outgoing mail from July 16, 2022, through October 14, 2022. The implementation of the new jacket-less Big Book Alcoholic Anonymous and 12 x 12 are being printed with expected ship dates in November and December. This design remodel will help circumvent supply chain back orders and reduce printing costs. **The Conference assignment:** received and processed 184 Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) within the September 15 deadline. The 2023 Conference Week Schedule draft: The committee noted that the 2022 Subcommittee on Conference Improvements reviewed the Conference Week Schedule and made several adjustments to the schedule: the GSO (General Service Office) scheduled visit, adding Area Delegate highlights – for the elected panel 73's. This was initiated at The ODC (Ontario Delegates Committee meeting) held here in Area 86 last March so don't think that changes are not made or voices are not heard starting from a small gathering of members, also it recommended providing a time for a potential workshop on Online Group Participation. The committee also noted that additional adjustments will occur following the October GSB (General Service Board) weekend. I would like to bring up one of the proposed agenda items or **PAI # 136 Consider:** The committee reviewed the request that the General Service Conference discuss and recommend what spiritual process our Fellowship should practice for Unity and took no action. The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.'s service structure is equally valuable in employing the legacy of Unity. I use this as an example first to help understand that not all 184 PAI items make it to the conference floor or even on the agenda the other reason it's a good example and explanation why. This type of material is also contained within the background information I will be sending out the agenda items in all three languages simultaneously for the first time ever and I expect them to be sent out about the third week of February. This material will be useful for the sub-committee chairs to prepare for there workshops and for the DCM's to have an opportunity to look at and help the chairs with this cooperative endeavour. It also helps to answer some of the questions that arise from the fellowship because we know DCM stands for District Committee Member not dodging concerned members which too helps to promote unity. On to **Corrections:** Corrections

Service of Canada (CSC) is eager to work with A.A. to raise awareness as to what A.A. has to offer for the alcoholic reaching out for help, such as the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). Discussion continues on how to make A.A.W.S and A.A. Grapevine literature available on tablets for those members in custody. Corrections desk has put out a Call to Action for all trusted servants in Canada to increase the awareness and participation of the Corrections Correspondence Service in Canada among those members who are in custody. We have a waitlist for members on the outside waiting to be of service. **Grapevine:** Supply chain shortages combined with increasing cost of goods sold (publication expense, postage, and printing – the “three P’s” - continue to present ongoing challenges). I was asked these questions by many concerned members in my travels this past year first when and then why did they change? **The Preamble:** The Grapevine Board thoughtfully reviewed each request below regarding the Preamble and took no action. The 72nd General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña reviewed and discussed this issue thoroughly in April 2022 and took no action. The Grapevine Chair and the 72nd Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña met in October 2022 and reviewed these proposed agenda items. It was determined there was no new information which required further discussion. This was also proposed over 20 different times and over 20 different ways on the most recent list of proposed agenda items I do not believe we have seen the end of this question just yet. **Finance and Budgetary:** September marked the fourth consecutive month of gross literature sales in excess of \$1million, a milestone which had not been reached for several years. However, because supply chain disruptions throughout the worldwide paper and printing industries continue to unfavorably impact the manufacturing cost of A.A.W.S. literature, gross margin was not as strong, although it did improve slightly. **Literature:** The trustee’s’ Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Action to the Fellowship. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions PAIs: The trustees’ Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founders words in our current literature. The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024

Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference. I found this to be important to add here because it would affect all our literature looking forward. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After legal consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored closed reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment. There has been a lot of discussion throughout the fellowship both pro and con over the last several years. I will have more to report on this after the conference. The committee noted that until other projects are completed a decision has been made to forgo new pamphlets or revisions at this time. Meaning no new pamphlets until we get the backlog of approved items cleared up. **Nominating:** the assignment is processing nominee information in preparation to elect the Trustee-At-Large, Canada and two the Northeast and Southwest regional trustees at the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. There are no vacancies to fill next year for Class A trustees. So, they will have extra time to deep dive into Dale's resume no pressure. The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Joyce S., Eastern Canada Regional Trustee serve for two years as Trustee Director on the AA Grapevine Board following the April 2023 General Service Conference. **Public Information:** I would like to again thank the DCM's and the groups for their help in this year's survey and pass along this from the trustee's committee. The committee would like to thank all the Delegates for their hard work and participation. They realize there were some difficulties in receiving the survey. It would not have been possible without your help. **2025 International Convention Vancouver:** The committee continued discussion regarding 2025 International Convention planning and noted the importance of frequent communications/updates about the International Convention to maintain momentum and interest within the Fellowship. That was a brief look into what is on going as we prepare for the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. There will be much to look forward to in the very near future as we plan for our Area 86 assembly. Another event taking place right here in Western Ontario is **CERAASA** February 24th-26th 2023 in St Catharines. This is an opportunity to interact with all the members of Eastern Canada and learn a little about how the conference works and participate in the meeting process. Workshops, presentations, a business meeting, and a banquet with a guest speaker. It's sort of like classic albums live for AA's. We have been busy meeting over the last three

years with the host and the steering committees and it is sure to be an informative and fun event and let's not forget the ice cream social come on. I recently at one of the planning committee meetings asked what the registration was looking like. I was informed that district 90 Quebec had two full buses, district 87 Quebec had one full and a 2<sup>nd</sup> bus was being considered and Area 86 could not fill a bus. I find that a little disappointing we have known about this for a while. I very much appreciate the districts and members that have been beating the drum, posting the flyers but we are coming down to crunch time and it is my experience that Area 86 has always gotten behind and supported these types of events. If you know anybody who is sitting on the fence or on another body part, please inspire them to come and join us. I have heard it said that Area 86 rocks and I know that to be true but let's show them how loud.

If I can take a moment to acknowledge and thank both ad hoc committees working on the financial review and our SOP's (Structure and Operating Procedures). I appreciate all the time and effort that it takes to perform these tasks. At the assembly following the DCM workshop I distributed the final conference report. I again will be sending out an email and will be asking you to send back to me how many reports you will require. These are the hard copy reports and there is a cost associated with printing and mailing them now that you have a better idea what you need, please let me know promptly otherwise I will go with last years numbers. I would also like to thank all the DCM's and alternates who picked up and brought the reports back to there districts. I will send out an electronic version of the report to the Area Committee when it becomes available usually before the hard copy sometime in the late spring early summer.

I really appreciate the districts that have invited me to participate in their various service activities. I have enjoyed travelling around this last year or so and attending roundups, campouts, service days and fellowship dinners etc. Alternate Delegate Dan D. and I encourage more of the same. If you would like myself to attend or if unavailable one of the other area officers, please contact me directly as soon as you have the details the schedule fills up pretty quick. Keep in mind that we also advocate that these events to be self supporting so please try to make the committee aware and try to cover the expense. It gives my heart joy to be able to meet in person and be together again in the fellowship of the spirit.

I would like to recognize the Area committee for your continued support as we continue to do this essential work in these extraordinary times and judging by what I have seen lately our labour could be more valuable now than ever before.

To my fellow Area 86 officers Dan, Kim, Tammy, and Jim you are the best and it truly is a pleasure to serve with and for you. To the Members, Servants, GSR's DCM's, Sub-committee chairs and past Delegates thank you. To all the Districts please send us those minutes it allows us to feel and stay connected. I can be reached at the area website [area86aa.org](http://area86aa.org) or my email [area86delegatep72@gmail.com](mailto:area86delegatep72@gmail.com).

Yours Humbly in Love and Service  
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