

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly met in a hybrid format on August 17, 2024. The meeting was held at Severna Park United Methodist Church, hosted by District 42. The room opened at 8:00 a.m. and the virtual doors opened at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Frank M. opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer with **48** members in attendance in the physical room and **36** members in the virtual room. There was a total of 50 voting members present.

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Frank M welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over who is eligible to vote at Area Committee Meetings. Frank invited any new DCMs, Alt DCMs, or GSR to introduce themselves of which there were 4.

Secretary's Report: Joe R. provided a summary of the May 18, 2024 Area Assembly Minutes. **MOTION to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Buddy F. and seconded by Jerry J. The motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report: Brigitte F. reported on account balances as of 7/31/24:

Operating Account: \$26,750

Special Savings for International Convention: \$4,732

Savings Account: \$20,166

Additional Assets:

Grapevine: \$4,180

Literature: \$5,489

Revenue: Group Contributions thru 7/31/24: \$27,284, Individual Contributions: \$218, Other income (7th Traditions basket, lunch donations, etc.) = \$1,433.50, Interest income = \$25

Total Revenue = **\$28,961 or 53% of budgeted revenue for 2024.**

Expenses: Through 7/31/24, we paid out a total of **\$35,507 -- 53% of budgeted expenses for 2024.**

The treasurer noted that Budget Sheets have been distributed to all Officers and Committee Chairs to help with 2025 budget planning.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Buddy F. and seconded by Scott H. The motion passed unanimously.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Lori McP. reported on her recent activities including attending all the CARC reconvene meetings and planning the CARC Reconvene meetings. She will be starting a virtual monthly GSR orientation session starting in September. The CARC process for the 75th GSC will begin in October.

She gave a brief overview of the PAI Submission process and on-line form.

Delegate's Report: Terry P. provided his "Delegate's Report" on news and events at the General Service Office and A.A. around our Area and fielded questions afterwards.

General Service Highlights:

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- The “Plan Language Big Book, A tool for accessing Alcoholics Anonymous” will be available November 2024 for \$11.00.
- Box 4-5-9 is No longer available in Print format.
- In an effort to make AA available in as many accessible forms as possible the Twelve Concepts Animated Video project will include translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish.
- Trustee Vacancies – There are two Class A, Non- Alcoholic Vacancies and one Class B, Trustee-at-Large vacancy. These vacancies are to be filled by the 75th General Service Conference.
- In the
- In the End of 2nd Quarter Unaudited Financial Statement it was disclosed that Contributions were \$5.6M , 13% greater than budgeted. This is great news!

Presentation- Talk to the Doc: Jessica W, CPC Chair gave an overview of what the CPC committee is and does, a brief history of our cooperation with outside professionals, and some of the obstacles that are faced in communicating the realities of the disease of alcoholism with professionals. Suggestions were presented as to how one should inform their doctor about AA, including providing them with a folder of AA material with literature and contact information.

Break 10: 30am Meeting Resumed 10:45am

Presentation- Corrections Day of Sharing: Scott B, Corrections Chair gave a synopsis of the workshop that will occur 10/12/24.

Presentation- State Convention Update: Dawn H., Convention Chair gave an encouraging update on the status of our next State Convention, including options for venues and dates that may be considered. The committee decision is to recommend a “traditional” MGS State Convention for a three-day, food and fellowship event. Following numerous conversations with members of our assembly and hearing from prior attendees, people want a face to face “good old fashion” AA convention with speaker meetings, ample time for fellowship, focused on unity and recovery.

Presentation- Area Inventory Process: Frank M, Area Chair gave an overview of what an Area Inventory will entail and how it will be facilitated.

New Business-

Budget Revision: Newsletter: Kristin B

***Motion* from Kristin B.- That the Newsletter Committee requests to increase its 2024 budget from \$1,025 to \$3,511 to accommodate expenses associated with travel costs for its chair, as well as costs to produce and print the recently revived MGS newsletter, *Our Common Welfare*.**

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The background for the motion was presented and the floor was open for discussion, with many members complimenting the new newsletter and standing in favor of the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Budget Revision: CPC: Jessica W.

Motion from the Area Committee and presented by Jessica W.- That the CPC Committee budget be increased by \$500 for the current fiscal year. These funds will cover necessary expenses for printing, mailing, and distributing materials to professionals as part of our outreach efforts. Additionally, the funds will be used for preparing and distributing materials for the "Talk to a Doc" program, as outlined in the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) CPC Kit Handbook, to be presented at the August Assembly.

The background for the motion was presented and the floor was opened for discussion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Budget Revision: PI: Kathi K.

Motion from the Area Committee and presented by Kathi K.- That the Public Information Committee requests to increase its 2024 budget in the amount of \$2,250.00 to accommodate expenses associated with attending two significant public information events, plus travel, presentation, and literature costs.

There was a new **Motion** to adjust the budgeted amount by amending the original motion that had been forwarded from the Area Committee.

The vote amends passed 54-1

Amended Motion from Kathi K.- That the Public Information Committee requests to increase its 2024 budget in the amount of \$2,200.00 to accommodate expenses associated with attending two additional public information events, plus literature and mileage costs.

The background for the motion was presented and the floor was opened for discussion

The vote passed unanimously.

Proposed Agenda Item(s): CARC 3

Motion from CARC3 and presented by Don B. that an ad hoc committee be created with members to include, but not be limited to, the Trustee-at-Large/United States, the Trustee-at-Large/Canada, and the A.A.W.S. staff member assigned to the International Desk at the General Service Office, to develop a plan for increasing international participation, coordination, communication, and input by A.A. members, groups, and service structures outside of the United States and Canada in decisions which affect Alcoholics Anonymous and its members worldwide.

The background for the PAI was presented and the floor was opened for discussion.

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A ***Motion*** was introduced requesting that the Area 29 Delegate send the Proposed Agenda Item from Area 29 to the General Service Office for possible inclusion in the 2025 General Service Conference Agenda. After discussion, the Motion was passed with substantial unanimity by a vote of 43-8.

Lunch break was taken at 12:15pm. The Assembly resumed at 1pm.

Committee Reports were given:

Archives- Linda J., Chair, reported that the committee is continuing to organize the stacks of mixed items in the Archives room at 857 Club. They intend to train members of the Area on things such as what is archival material. The committee also will be developing and implementing policies of what the Archives Committee is responsible for in terms of the maintenance of current Archival material and criteria for accepting donations.

Accessibilities- Brandi T., Chair, reported that the committee has been visiting many groups and districts in the Area. They will be sending out a new survey to gather information from the Area regarding its accessibility needs.

Area Host- Beverly, Chair, Thanked District 42 for their hosting the August Area Assembly. They are preparing to host the Area Inventory in October.

Area Newsletter., Kristin B, Chair- reports that they need stories and photos for the next edition of the newsletter.

Area Registrar- Ashtin P., Co-Chair, reports that they have registered 10 new groups and 16 new members in service since May of 2024.

Audio-Steve S, Chair. No report was given.

Finance- Craig T., Chair, reported that the committee has worked closely with the Newsletter, PI, and CPC committees to form motions to request increases to their budgets for 2024. The 2025 Budget worksheets have been assembled and emailed out to all the 6 Area offices (Panel members) and 18 Area Committee Chairs.

IGLC-Rex, Chair, reported the committee has been very busy visiting Intergroups across the Area.

Literature-Jean B, Chair, reported that at their last meeting they discussed the Area inventory and suggested a topic on improving the meeting experience for those on line to feel more included. They are working with the corrections committee and now have a full panel to participate in conference day of sharing in October. They will be visiting the Intergroup Liaison Committee to talk with area intergroups about a shared inventory list and how they order their literature so they can be of service to them. They will be temporarily carrying Grapevine inventory until a new GV committee chair can be found.

MD State Convention-Dawn H., Chair. See report on presentation above.

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CPC-Jessica W., Chair. See report on presentation above.

Policy and Procedure- Mark S., Chair, reported that the committee has a virtual P&P Committee Meeting scheduled for 2 August 2024 to prepare the 2025 budget submission. It will also discuss the Suggestions for a Committee Inventory forwarded from the Area Chair.

PI- Kathi K., Chair, reported that reported that the committee has entered a motion to increase its annual budget because of their increased activity. She explained the purpose of the Maryland Deaf Access Committee emphasizing that it is a standalone entity, serving Maryland but is not a part of the Area 29 Committee structure. She asked that members consider MDAC as another entity in their 7th Tradition Contributions. The Public Information Committee will have tables at the Maryland Nursing Conference (9/26-9/27) and at Power of Age Expo in October.

Technology- Bill L., Chair, reported that he has been working with Area Committees so that their information is updated on the Area website. The committee updated and changed the Group Lookup form to focus on Districts rather than City/Town. He asked that members please use the Technology Service Request form for all questions and requests for assistance. Moreover, please do not e-mail the webmaster directly.

Workshop- Jeanine W., Chair, reported that the committee is assisting with our Area Corrections Conference Day of Sharing to be held on October 12th and District 28's Sponsorship Forum to be held on October 26th.

Corrections- Scott B., Chair, reported that your corrections Committee has finalized the program and plans for our Corrections Conference Day of Sharing on October 12, 2024. They will also be participating in the National Corrections Conference. The committee also utilized the CARC process for a PAI for developing a service piece documenting utilization of tablets in correctional facilities. Ultimately it was decided to table this effort in favor of developing a survey on the topic and passing along any results to the General Service Office.

DCM Reports were given:

District 6- Tim H., DCM reported that they are encouraging groups in their district to register with GSO and have put a registrar in place as a tool for doing that.

District 7- Jerry C., DCM, reported that participation in its district meeting has improved since it has moved to a hybrid format. They are planning a "gratitude" breakfast in November. They are participating in the Area Corrections Day of Sharing in October. The have adopted District 27.

District 9- Kevin F., DCM reported that the district is getting great attendance at its business meetings and workshops, with 120 members present at the last event. Fellowship events for fall and winter are being planned and a new website is being considered.

District 10-Cyndi C., DCM reported that the district is planning their annual Fall picnic that will be held on 10/20/24.

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District 15- Don B, member, reported that the district needs to be Adopted as it has become inactive.

District 18-Bill M., DCM reported that they are looking for more participation from groups in the region. They will be hosting an Area Committee in November.

District 19- Anna S., reported that the district is doing well but would welcome more participation from its GSRs They will be having a picnic in late august and are planning an alcathon on New Years Eve.

District 20- Karin S., DCM, reported that they are reaching out to groups without a GSR and encouraging them to participate in General Service. They are hosting a potluck in the fall.

District 22- Beverly M., DCM, reports that the district is experiencing low attendance at district meetings during the summer. They are participating in the Area Corrections Day of Sharing in October.

District 24- Trini H., on behalf of the district found that the district is inactive and uninformed and that she is trying to secure contacts in order to relight the district.

District 25- Trini H., on behalf of the district found that the district is inactive and uninformed and that she is trying to secure contacts in order to relight the district.

District 28- Brain, DCM, reported that they are changing the location, day, and time of their district meeting. They will be hosting a sponsorship forum in the fall.

District 29-Gil M., DCM, reported that the district is visiting other groups the district and sharing about the concepts. The district has added a new meeting.

District 32- Trini H., on behalf of the district found that the district is inactive and uninformed and that she is trying to secure contacts in order to relight the district.

District 35- Dan W., DCM, reported that the district is bringing meetings into several local treatment facilities, recovery houses and the Charles County Detention Center.

District 37, Tom M., DCM, reported plans on taking an inventory of active groups in the district so that a regular district meeting can be held.

District 38, Trini H., on behalf of the district found that the district is inactive and uninformed and that she is trying to secure contacts in order to relight the district.

District 42- Mark S., DCM, reported that the district responded to a request from the Area 29 Treatment Committee requesting a temporary contact for a man being discharged from treatment in the Odenton area. They contacted the Odenton Friday Night Discussion meeting for assistance. They are looking forward to participating in the Area Corrections Day of Sharing in October.

District 46- Trini H., DCM, reported that the district and its members are not being supported by the Area and GSO. The DCM levelled several grievances supporting this finding.

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Closing announcements by Frank M. The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement at 2:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R.

Area 29, Panel 74 Secretary