

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Committee met in a hybrid format on November 15, 2025. The meeting was held at St. Mary's Church Hall in Abingdon, MD, and hosted by District 28. 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 9:02 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer with **59** members in attendance.

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 5.

Secretary's Report: Joe R. provided a summary of the July 18, 2025, Area Committee Minutes. **MOTION to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Scott B seconded by Jerry C. The vote passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report: Craig T, Finance Chair, on behalf of Brigitte F. reported on account balances as of 10/31/25:

Operating/Checking Account: \$30,776.48

Savings Account (Prudent Reserve): \$20,093

Grapevine: \$5,054

Literature: \$5,405

State Convention: \$100 (the amount keeps the account open free of fees)

Revenue:

Total income as of Oct. 31 totaled **\$42,305.75, or 74.5 percent** of total estimated revenue for the year.

Group Contributions through Oct. 31 totaled \$38,854. Individual Contributions = \$796

Seventh Tradition Basket = \$1,031.50 Lunch Donations = \$1,533

Interest income on Savings/Prudent Reserve to date: \$2.34 Other = \$89

Expenses:

Total expenses as of Oct. 31 totaled **\$33,042, or 48 percent** of total estimated expenses for the year.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by MJ seconded by Don B. The vote passed unanimously.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Lori McP. reported that the General Service Board met from October 31 to November 3, during which Proposed Agenda Items were reviewed. The finalized list of items that may appear on the General Service Conference agenda is expected in the coming weeks.

She will be attending The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) December 4–6 in Providence, Rhode Island, and The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) February 20–22, 2026, in Portland, Maine.

The monthly virtual GSR Orientation sessions, held on the first Monday of each month, continue to be an effective way to share information about the General Service structure with new GSRs. All are encouraged to attend, with Zoom details available on the Maryland AA website.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

She reports that December will mark the launch of the CARC and Mini-Conference process for the 76th General Service Conference. Volunteers are being sought for the roles of CARC Leaders, Co-Leaders, Recorders, and Alternate Recorders.

Delegate's Report: Terry P. provided his "Delegate's Report," provided his activities throughout the Area and remarked that The Spirit of Rotation reminds us that AA service is a shared journey. We take on responsibilities for a time, then step aside so others can grow, discover their gifts, and bring new ideas. Rotation keeps us humble, helps prevent burnout, and reinforces that no one person is meant to run the show.

With kindness, we pass along what we've learned and welcome new trusted servants, supporting smooth, respectful transitions. By doing so, we strengthen unity and keep service a gift we temporarily hold—then gratefully pass on so our Fellowship can continue to flourish.

In other news Terry reported that:

Fifth Edition Alcoholics Anonymous

- Plans are moving forward to provide a conference review of the draft 5th Edition at the 76th General Service Conference (GSC). I have provided my input that the full conference should have complete access to the draft as a matter of acting in the interests of the fellowship as a whole.

Fourth Edition Alcoholics Anonymous

- There will be a very detailed report at Conference next year. This is almost complete. The committee does not want to rush translation over quality. The 76th GSC will discuss the process to present it at the 77th GSC.

Publishing Director Position Announcement

- Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. is seeking a Publishing Director to lead the Publishing Department at the General Service Office in New York City. This full-time position provides strategic and visionary leadership for the production of A.A. literature in print, digital, and audiovisual formats, while upholding A.A.'s mission and values.

Newly revised and expanded "Markings on the Journey" video in 3 formats!

- **"Markings on the Journey,"** the much-loved video from the G.S.O. Archives, is now available in an *expanded edition*! This inspiring A.A. history film now features rare full-color home-movie footage of co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob with their wives at Stepping Stones in the early 1940s. In response to Fellowship requests, the new edition is offered in three formats—DVD, thumb drive, and digital download—through the A.A.W.S. Webstore.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

Literature

- **Living Sober** - The subcommittee received initial batch of updates from Publishing. It has more contemporary language and the subcommittee is reviewing them and then Publishing will have more clarity on what needs to be done. Hopefully in the conference update/ background it will have some examples of contemporary language and a list a few new ideas.
- **Do You Think You're Different?** pamphlet (EDW placed in Trustees). The committee wants to make this shorter, 3-4 stories then “snackable” content with quotes or vignettes. The hope is that it is a 5-minute read instead of a 50-minute read.

Terry concluded his Delegate’s report by opening the floor for questions.

Sharing Session – Service Sponsorship: Frank M. led a sharing session about the importance of service sponsorship in AA and invited members to reflect on their experiences. He asked how service sponsorship has supported personal growth, times when a service sponsor provided guidance in challenging roles, and what qualities are valuable in a service sponsor. He also encouraged members to share experiences of being a service sponsor themselves. Additional questions addressed how individuals find a service sponsor and how groups can encourage more participation in service sponsorship and how to make service sponsorship more accessible to newer members.

Break 10:18am Meeting resumed 10:33am

New Business-

Motion from Jean B. as Chairperson of the Area 29 Grapevine Committee, move that the committee’s name be changed to “Grapevine/LaViña Committee” and seconded by Brian M.

Background for the motion was presented, and the floor was open for discussion. The motion passed unanimously 33-0.

Motion from Craig T, Finance Committee chair, to better align the MGS Area Handbook with updated, current, financial practices, the Area Treasurer and Finance Committee move that the following changes be made to the Internal Financial Control Policy prior to the next printing of the MGS Handbook:

1. **Bank Statement Reconciliations – page 54:**

In current statement “Checks outstanding for over thirty (30) days shall be investigated and resolved in a timely manner.”, change “thirty (30) days” to “sixty (60) days”.

CONFIDENTIAL

2. Receipts – page 54:

Remove the sentence “All deposit slips will be numbered.” and replace it with “All deposit slips will be dated and stored in numerical order in a marked envelope by the Treasurer”.

3. Receipts – page 54:

Remove the statement: “The Checks Received Log and deposit slips will be forwarded to the MGS Financial Chair monthly”. Replace it with “A reconciled bank statement will be sent to the MGS Finance Chair monthly.”

4. Credit and Debit Cards – page 55:

Remove the last sentence “Secondary accounts, as needed, may have debit cards.”
Add the following sentence: “Automatically incurred online payments tied to the Area debit card (Zoom and MGS Email accounts, for example) shall be tracked by the MGS Treasurer, after they have been approved by the Assembly as part of the Operating Budget”.

5. Budgeted Expense Reimbursements – page 55 (New Section):

Add this new section at the end of page 55 containing the sentence: “When additional funds are needed which exceed the total amount of their approved budget, it is recommended that the Officer or Committee Chair inform the Finance Committee and bring their request to the Area Committee for authorization of additional expenditure”.

Seconded by Ginger

Background for the motion was presented, and the floor was open for discussion with many members asking specifically about #5 and why an Officer or Committee Chair may need an immediate budget increase. The Finance Chair explained that overruns are uncommon but do occur, especially when new chairs face unexpected expenses. In those cases, requests are reviewed by the Finance Committee and then brought to the Area Committee and Assembly for approval. Members asked how urgent, time-sensitive expenses are handled; past examples showed that the Board and Treasurer have used Right of Decision when necessary. A point of order was raised that the discussion had moved beyond the motion on the floor, and the body returned to the motion. The motion passed unanimously 36-0.

2026 Budget-MOTION, from Craig T: The Finance Committee moves to accept the 2026 Maryland General Service, Inc. Proposed Budget as presented and forward to the Area Assembly for consideration. The Finance Committee presented the 2026 MGS Proposed Budget prepared through a collaborative review of all submitted budget requests, estimating \$45,250 in group contributions and total revenue of \$57,066. Proposed expenses total \$70,371, including mileage reimbursement, reserved funding for NERAASA and NERD, and a \$7,000 contribution to the General Service Conference. No funds were allocated for the 2026 State Convention due to a lack of event details. The budget reflects a projected surplus of \$13,305 before NERAASA travel support; sending 12 members at \$1,000 each would create a small \$305 deficit. The committee will adjust the budget as more information becomes available.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

After the presentation, the floor was open for discussion with no members choosing to go to the microphone. The vote passed unanimously 32-0

Committee Reports were given:

Archives- Linda J, Chair: No Report

Accessibilities- Alex H, Chair, No Report

Area Host- Don B, Co- Chair reported that the committee supported several events, including providing room setup, meals, and cleanup for the Corrections Day of Sharing on October 11, assisting District 7 with the October 18 Area Assembly, and supporting District 28 DCM Brian M. for the current Area Committee meeting, with thanks to him for handling all the shopping. Appreciation was also expressed to Ginger A., incoming Host Committee Chair, for stepping in when Beverly became ill, and to Don for consistently managing supplies, setup, and cleanup each month. The committee noted gratitude for the dedicated service of all involved.

Area Newsletter., Kristin B, Chair, reported that five hundred copies of the fall edition of *Our Common Welfare* were printed for distribution at the November 13 Committee Meeting and the December 13 Area Assembly. The newsletter was also emailed to the newsletter mailing list and posted online. Outreach was conducted to identify a new newsletter chair for Panel 76, and Frank McF has agreed to serve. A transition period is underway, and continued support will be provided to ensure a smooth handoff.

Area Registrar- Marie B., Chair, reports that she has been busy registering new trusted servants and preparing the incoming Panel 76 registrar. She asks that trusted servants rotating out of their positions should please contact the registrar committee at registrar@marylandaa.org.

Audio-Steve S, Chair, reported that the committee has had to replace the Area's interpretation equipment. They have excess equipment that they would like to donate to any Districts that may be in need.

Finance- Craig T., Chair, reported that the committee worked closely with Panel 74 officers and committee chairs, as well as the Panel-elect and incoming Panel 76 committee chairs, to review all 2026 budget requests. Using these requests, historical financial data from the Area Treasurer, and the 2025 budget-to-actual figures, the Finance Committee developed and presented the MGS, Inc. 2026 Proposed Budget to the Area Committee. A transition of information is underway with Tom M. from District 37, who will serve as the Finance Chairperson for Panel 76. The committee is available to visit districts or AA events to share information upon request. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 6:45 PM.

IGLC-Rex, Chair, reported that at the last committee meeting Lorraine J., Vice Chair of the Southern Maryland Intergroup Association (SMIA), shared her experience and provided an overview of SMIA's

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

mission to carry the message across Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. She highlighted key successes such as the Lifeline hotline, website, literature sales, events, and strong financial stewardship, while noting ongoing challenges including limited IGR participation, difficulty finding volunteers, and communication gaps.

Open Discussion at the meeting included examples of successful volunteer outreach, such as Baltimore Intergroup's online signup that drew over 60 volunteers, and the value of mentoring new members and making announcements at in-person meetings. Representatives attended SMIA's November 8th intergroup meeting and Fall Gratitude Dinner, and the IGLC continues to welcome new committee members.

Literature/Grapevine-Jean B, Chair, reported that the committee awarded the prize to Debbie A (Bel Air Women's Big Book) for "oldest pamphlet in the rack" contest.

MD State Convention-Don B, Chair, reported that committee roles have been filled, including secretary, treasurer, registration, hotel liaison, technology, outreach, displays, Hispanic liaison, security, Alcathon coordinators, hospitality, prayer and meditation, workshops, and Al-Anon and Alateen liaisons, with several positions still open.

The committee is actively negotiating with multiple venues across the state, including Ocean City, Cambridge, Owings Mills, Annapolis, Towson, College Park, Baltimore, Chestertown, and Ellicott City, seeking a feasible date and payment schedule. Due to high upfront costs at many locations, the committee may need to request additional seed money. Meetings will likely be held monthly online, and subcommittee chairs have been asked to build their teams. Interested members are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate chairpersons.

Policy and Procedure- Tim H., Co- Chair, reported that the Area 29 Policy and Procedures Committee met on October 23 and November 6. The update of the Area 29 Assembly Handbook is nearly complete. Remaining open items include potential updates resulting from motions made at the December Area Assembly meeting and reaching consensus with the Technology Committee regarding the recommended process for translating the completed English version into Spanish and posting both versions on the MGS Area 29 website.

Technology- Bill L., Chair, reported that activity has been relatively quiet, with only routine flyers and information posts being made. In preparation for the transition, a runbook is being developed for the incoming Technology Chair to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities and continuity of operations.

Treatment- MJ., Chair: No Report

Workshop- Jeanine W., Chair, reported that She has been providing assistance to members reaching out regarding workshops. She participated in District 35's workshop, *"The Heartbeat of AA – The Homegroup,"* on October 4, and the Area 29 Corrections Committee's *Corrections Day of Sharing* on October 11. Kristin B., editor of *Our Common Welfare* newsletter, invited her to submit an article about

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

Sessions by the Sea, which she attended in September. The article has been submitted. As a reminder, those hosting workshops or events are encouraged to submit articles with anonymity-protected images to Kristin for inclusion in the newsletter.

Corrections- Scott B., Chair, reported that the Second Annual Area Corrections Day of Sharing was held on October 11, 2025, with about 50 attendees. Panels on Professionals, Women's, Intergroup, and the Plain Language Big Book were well received, while the lunchtime video was less effective. Attendees requested more information on Pre-Release Contacts and Corrections Correspondence, which will help inform planning for CDoS 2026.

The bid for the National Corrections Conference 2027 was withdrawn after three venue options proved unworkable due to availability, performance concerns, or cost. The committee will continue exploring options for 2028.

Members attended the 2025 National Corrections Conference in Nashville, and a report will be provided at the December Assembly.

DCM Reports were given:

District 4- Liz C, reported that the district held an election and that a new panel of officers has been seated for the next panel. They continue to do outreach meetings in the district. They co-hosted a very well attended Halloween party with District 9.

District 6- Tim H. reported that the district met on October 28 and will not hold meetings in November or December due to holiday commitments. Elections to seat a new panel will take place in January.

District 7- Jerry C., DCM, reported that the district held elections and that a new panel of officers has been seated. They held the first annual picnic and talent show. They will be having a "gratitude breakfast" on 11/29.

District 10- Linda L DCM reported that District 10 held its annual Unity Picnic on Sunday, October 19, 2025, with over 130 people in attendance. The food went quickly due to extra-hungry visitors, but many stayed for the meeting, which featured an excellent speaker who fulfilled our primary purpose of carrying the message. Overall, the picnic was a great success. At our last district meeting, the treasurer's report was shared, showing that the district is in good financial shape. Plans will be made at a future meeting to determine how best to use the funds in the interest of the district and AA. The next District 10 meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, during which elections for new service positions will take place. All GSRs are spreading the word to ensure a strong turnout.

District 11- Caleb T., DCM reported that District 11 held elections last month and conducted a transition meeting this month for the new panel. Several positions—including the alternate and treasurer—transitioned smoothly, though the DCM chair position remains unfilled. The district welcomed a few new GSRs. Attendance at the transition meeting was around eight.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

District 18- Bill M, DCM reported that its Halloween Dance was a great success. Special thanks were given to the Halloween Committee for their work. District 18 also held elections, and the DCM will continue in the position. New officers include Lynn G. as Alternate DCM, Tanisha as Treasurer, and Mary B. as Secretary. The district is planning a workshop to be held after the New Year.

District 15- Deirdra F, reported that the district successfully co-hosted its first workshop with District 33 on home groups and GSR service, with 18 attendees. Planning has begun for a second joint workshop focused on AA literature, including the Plain Language Big Book. Ongoing visits to home groups continue to encourage more GSR participation.

District 19- Anna S., reported that District 19 traditionally held a fall picnic, but interest in planning and participation had declined over the past year. After discussing the issue, the district decided to collaborate with District 4 on a joint event, which proved highly successful and helped renew enthusiasm. Together, they hosted the first—hopefully annual—joint Halloween Party, which saw strong participation. Anna expressed hope that future DCMs from both districts will continue planning events together to maintain this momentum.

The district is now preparing for its next event, the New Year's Eve Alcathon, with many groups already expressing interest in hosting meetings.

District 20- Karin S., DCM, reported that District 20 has been working to support and encourage GSR engagement by creating informational mini-workbooks for groups. Seven groups in the district still do not have a GSR, and outreach efforts are ongoing. The district meets on the third Sunday of each month at 4:00 PM, with an average attendance of 10-12 members. A planned fall talent show was canceled due to low participation.

District 28- Brain M, DCM reported that District 28 meets on the third Monday of each month at Hartford Community Church in Bel Air, Maryland, with typically 5–10 home groups represented. The district recently held a workshop on the Seventh Tradition. At the next meeting, District 28 will be conducting elections for its service positions.

District 29- Gil M, DCM reported that District 29 held elections, with Jaime M elected as DCM. The district continues visiting groups and collaborating with the Hispanic Intergroup. District 29 was acknowledged for its strong financial contributions to the Area.

District 39- Jack C, DCM reported that the district held its first meeting on November 9. As the district is currently dark, efforts are underway to “relight” it and re-establish active participation. He expressed encouragement after hearing that similar efforts have succeeded elsewhere.

District 31- Ginger A., DCM, reported that elections were held in October, with Holly S. elected as the new DCM. The district currently has no alternate DCM.

District 33- Ralph O., DCM, reported that District 33 collaborated with District 15 on a successful workshop in late September. After the prior DCM resigned, the alternate stepped into the DCM role, which was confirmed at the October meeting. The district now has an active treasurer and is seeking an alternate DCM. Meetings are hybrid on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM. The district has roughly 53 groups, with seven attending the last meeting. The DCM has visited eight groups so far and continues

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE- AREA 29, PANEL 74

CONFIDENTIAL

outreach using AA literature and brief presentations at group business meetings to encourage GSR participation.

District 37, Tom M, ALT DCM, reported that many groups on the Eastern Shore are very small or informal and not structured for GSR participation. The district has four GSRs out of more than twenty groups, with most service occurring through a strong intergroup. Recent events—including a sobriety show and planned Thanksgiving and Christmas Alcathons—have been well attended. To maintain continuity and continue outreach, the DCM has requested an additional two-year term. Increasing GSR engagement through Intergroup outreach will be the focus.

Closing announcements by Frank M. The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement at 12:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R.

Area 29, Panel 74 Secretary

DRAFT