

## MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 72

### CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly met in a hybrid format on March 19, 2022. The meeting was held at Severna Park United Methodist Church. The room opened at 8:00am and the virtual doors opened at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Brigitte F. opened the meeting at 9:10am. 49 members were in attendance in the physical room and 39 members were in the virtual room.

**Area Chair Opening Remarks:** Brigitte F. welcomed everyone to the hybrid March 19<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly Meeting and reviewed who qualified as a voting member of the Area Assembly. Brigitte F. thanked Beverly M, Alt-DCM from District 22 for hosting the Assembly. New GSRs and DCMs were asked to introduce themselves and then Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs were invited to introduce themselves.

**Chairperson Report:** Brigitte F. announced the MGS Annual Meeting according to our MGS Bylaws, Article 2.04c. Therefore, for the purpose of the record, today's Assembly serves as the Annual Meeting of the corporation. The Board of Maryland General Service met at 7:30am this morning and the Board President, Cynthia T. will have a report on that meeting later this morning. Brigitte F. reported the need for CPC/PI and Host Chairs and host Districts were still needed for future Area Meetings as indicated on the calendar. Brigitte F. has been busy the past month attending NERAASA, Area Committee Meetings, as well as CARCs 2 and 4. There will be a Safety Sharing Session conducted by past Delegate Nancy K., Panel 54, this afternoon.

**Area 29 Parliamentarian,** Bob C. spoke about "Minority Opinion". Robert's Rules are about 3 concepts: order, decorum and the rights of the majority and the minority. Bob referred to "How the Conference Operates" for further explanation. When a vote does not meet substantial unanimity, 2/3 of voters, the non-prevailing side can speak.

**Secretary's Report:** Kathleen W. provided a summary of the December 11, 2021, Area Assembly Minutes, which were transmitted to the Assembly by email on March 8, 2022. Kurt W. had a change to the Budget Motion, changed to "presented", not "made" the motion, which was accepted. ***Motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made Craig T. and seconded by Diane F. The Motion carried unanimously.***

**Treasurer's Report:** Jean B. reported that as of February 28, 2022, account balances are: Operating Account: \$29,714.16; Special Savings for International Convention: \$3,532.02; Savings Account: \$20,002.21. We have additional assets of: Literature: \$ 5,728.73 & Grapevine: \$4,477.88

Revenue:

Group Contributions as of February 28, 2022, are \$7,032.24. Individual Contributions as of February 28, are \$38.64 Other income (i.e., 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition's basket, lunch donations, etc.) total \$682.29 Total Revenue \$7,753.17 which is 20 % of our budgeted revenue for 2022.

Expenses:

Through February 28, 2022, we have paid out a total of \$10,001.41, which is 15% of our budgeted expenses this year.

***Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Kathleen W. and seconded by Beverly M. The Motion carried unanimously.***

**Alternate Delegate's Report:** Terry P. reported on his recent and future activities including: NERAASA (February 25-27, 2022), NERD (March 2022), CARC 4, IGLC Meeting and CARC 2. Upcoming activities-

- CARC 2 Mar 22 (2<sup>nd</sup> mtg)
- CARC 3 Mar 26
- CARC 1 Mar 27
- March 31 presenting to Spanish Intergroup on the Mini-Conference and CARC process.
- Mini-Conference Apr 9
- Opening dinner GSC as Kurt W.'s guest. Apr 24

**Mini-Conference Committee Report:** The Mini-Conference Committee has met on several occasions. The Mini-Conference will be hybrid on April 9, 2022, at New Hope Lutheran Church in Columbia Maryland. The speaker will be Bob W., General Service Office Manager.

**Delegate's Report:** Kurt W. provided his "Delegate Report" on news and events at the General Service Office and A.A. around our Area.

**72nd GSC Agenda:** Kurt W. stated there were 178 submissions of proposed agenda items for the 72nd GSC and over 80 submissions were requests to undo actions of the 71st GSC. The GSC will be held in Brooklyn, NY, April 24-30, 2022.

**General Service Board and GSO:** Kurt reported that the GSO re-opened March 14, 2022, GSO currently has a staff vacancy, there are 2 new public service announcements, the Armed Forces Members Interview Project is looking for

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participants and gave publishing and Grapevine updates on new literature and supply chain issues. Kurt reported on attending NERAASA 2022 and the March NERD reunion.

To review details on these topics and the Delegate's upcoming travels, please refer to the "Delegate Report". A soft copy of his "Delegate Report" for March 2022 was emailed to the Area on March 19, 2022, and will be posted on the MGS website.

**MGS Annual Board Meeting Report:** Cynthia T., President of the MGS Board of Directors introduced the Maryland General Service Board: Don B., Linda J., Brigitte F. and Kurt W. She gave a brief overview of the role of the MGS Board of Directors. Cynthia T. announced that the MGS Board met this morning and approved Kathleen W. as secretary for the meeting. The MGS Board wants to create an inventory and asked Linda J. to head the project. New business included reviewing the MGS Bylaws to clarify the role of the MGS Board of Directors and what revisions may need to be made, and possibly creating a new page for the MGS Handbook.

### 15 min. Break: 10:32am

**NERAASA 2022 Highlights:** Frank W. presented an overview and highlights from the February 24-26, 2022, Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly. The next NERAASA will be held in February 2023 in Albany, NY. The weekend included 6 panels about GSC agenda items, 19 roundtables, NERT report, dinner and speaker meeting, report backs from roundtables and Panel 72 Delegate highlights. [www.neraasa.org/archives/2022](http://www.neraasa.org/archives/2022)

### DCM Reports:

**District 6:** Scott H, DCM reported the district is trying to bring new GSRs into service. They are working on a Step 4 Workshop with District 22.

**District 7:** Amy D., DCM reported the district has 85 groups, 19 hybrid or virtual only and have between 7-13 attendees at the district meeting. They are working on bringing new GSRs to service and have a workshop on March 20, 2022, "Jump Start Your Sobriety".

**District 9:** Bob G., DCM reported having 58 groups, 52 registered GSRs and approximately 30 attendees at the last district meeting. There are 18 active committees with chairs. There was a bowling event, 12 Step Workshop with 5 speakers and the Spiritual Breakfast, April 30.

**District 10:** Joe R., DCM reported 34 active meetings with 1 new meeting added. 7-12 attendees at the district meetings. Spring workshop is being planned.

**District 15:** Tyler J., Past DCM, reported they are an inactive district, but he is still forwarding information to the contact list of GSRs.

**District 18:** Stephanie M., DCM reported the district has 35 groups, added 1 new meeting from another district and 1 new GSR. "Getting Sober Young Workshop", March 20, 2022, and plans for a spring picnic for May 15, 2022. They are working on establishing a CPC/PI committee.

**District 19:** Doug M., DCM reported the district is cleaning up the group information with Jeanine W. and creating a site for the district, with all documents, for GSRs to report to their meetings. Still working on a workshop with District 33.

**District 20:** Rich P., Alt-DCM reported the district is planning a movie night/service workshop. They are working on getting more GSRs from groups in the district.

**District 22:** Beverly M., Alt-DCM reported the district planned a "Step 4 workshop with Jerry J"., April 9, 2022. Working on educating GSRs on their importance and connection to GSO.

**District 28:** Joanne N., DCM reported the district has 50 registered groups and 13 GSRs attended the last district meeting. The district is hosting the November Area 29 Committee Meeting.

**District 30:** Mike C., DCM reported they are hosting a newcomer workshop called "Getting Sober During a Pandemic" on May 21, 2022, in person. They are working on an outreach program for GSRs.

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**District 33:** Ashtin P., DCM reported that the district has 3 active GSRs. They are working with District 19 to plan a workshop for the spring.

**District 35:** Dwayne B., DCM reported the Institutions/Corrections Committee resumed an aggressive schedule of bringing meetings to jails and treatment centers. They are working on education and increasing contributions to the district. Jeanine W. developed a newsletter which includes items such as: What is D35? What does it do? Introduction to Area 29 Trusted Servants and information about the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. There is a 4<sup>th</sup> Step Workshop on April 23.

**District 36:** Joyce S., DCM reported 34 groups in the district, 2 new GSRs and 12 attendees at the meeting. The district held a 4<sup>th</sup> Step Workshop with 8 attendees. They recently filled the AA Grapevine Committee Chair vacancy, and they are scheduling a workshop in June.

**District 40:** Julie K., DCM reported the district has approximately 35 groups with 5-9 attendees at the district meetings. They are working on creating a district handbook and there is a Step Workshop scheduled on March 26.

**District 41:** Mike F., DCM reported the district has 5-7 GSRs attending the district meetings. Lauren O. will be speaking at the district meeting in April. Mike M is doing a History Workshop for 100 attendees in person.

**District 42:** Mark S., DCM reported the district has 29 groups with 7 GSRs attending the meeting. Portal for contributions was set up, they are co-hosting a corrections workshop in October and volunteered to host August Area 29 Meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> CARC 2 is March 22, 2022.

**Old Business: None**

Brigitte F. clarified who qualifies as a voting member of the MGS Committee Meeting. There is no second needed if the Motion is brought from committee. Members will get 2 minutes at the microphone. There was a room count for voting members and she explained our voting procedure and Motion process. The Registrar's count was 42 in the physical room and 23 online voters. 65 total eligible voting members.

**New Business: Motions**

Birk S., MD State Convention Chair presented a Motion and background:

**The Maryland State Convention Committee is requesting an additional \$1500 in seed money to fund Spanish interpretation services at the 50th Anniversary MD State Convention**

There was a vote taken with 23 online voting members and 42 in person voting members, for a total of 65 voting members. **The Motion passed unanimously with 59 votes in favor and 0 opposed.**

Brigitte F., Chairperson presented a Motion and background:

**The Area 29 Chairperson requests approval of the following proposed changes in the operating budget to cover the expenses incurred for the Area Chair Business Zoom Account for the 2022 Calendar Year. The changes are being proposed with the support of the Delegate, and the Intergroup Liaison, Accessibilities and Finance Committees. Specifically, \$150.00 will be moved from Accessibilities, \$150.00 moved from the Intergroup Liaison Committee, \$150.00 moved from the Finance Committee, and \$150.00 moved from the Delegate's budget. All will be moved into the Area Chair's budget to cover the Business Zoom account.**

There was a vote taken with 23 online voting members and 42 in person voting members, for a total of 65 voting members. **The Motion passed unanimously with 63 votes in favor and 0 opposed.**

Kathi K., Accessibilities Chair presented a Motion and background:

**In response to a request from the Hispanic community the Accessibility Committee is requesting a \$800.00 budget increase to provide Spanish interpretation and ASL translation at our monthly Accessibility meetings. Procedurally, we are asking this committee to move this Motion forward to the Assembly for approval of this increase.**

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After a lengthy discussion, Frank M. called the question to bring the Motion to a vote. Unanimous vote to call the question. There was a vote taken with 22 online voting members and 42 in person voting members, for a total of 64 total voting members. **The motion passed with a majority vote of 61 votes in favor and 2 opposed.**

**Break for Lunch: 12:30pm, the meeting resumed at 1:15pm**

#### **Sharing Session: Safety in and around the rooms of A.A. presented by Nancy K., Past Delegate**

The session considered: What is Safety? How can groups handle confrontations and unsafe situations? The yellow Safety Cards were handed out to all members present, along with a copy of "Safety in A. A." pamphlet (F-228) and "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" (Service Material from the General Service Office SMF-209)

Some ideas shared:

- Holding a group conscience prior to any incidents to have established ways of handling situations
- Reading the Yellow Card or a version of it in your group's opening announcements
- Groups are autonomous in the way unsafe situations are handled
- Calling the police when necessary or call for a mental health response team
- Have a greeter at the door
- Speaking directly to someone when there is inappropriate behavior
- Establish direct and specific acceptable behavior requirements to an individual who may be disruptive or inappropriate (We will ask you to leave if....)

#### **Area Committee Reports:**

**Accessibilities:** Kathi K., Chair reported the committee provided accessibilities checklists, attended NERAASA in February, held monthly committee meetings with Spanish and ASL translation, and met with Hispanic Intergroup. They are working on getting a Homebound program set up and mailed out 100 introduction letters to the Center of Aging and Senior Centers in Area 29. The committee also contacted New Vision House of Hope for transitioning inmates and created an Accessibilities newsletter. In April they will have Northeast Regional Trustee, Francis G. will be giving a presentation at the Accessibilities Committee.

**Archives:** No Report

**Host:** No Report

**Registrar:** Jeanine W., Chair reported that she attended NERAASA and the GSO quarterly sharing session. Area Delegates now get an email when new meetings are added to Fellowship Connection. DCMs can use Fellowship Connection to contact groups and GSRs in their districts. Jeanine W. asked for help to clean up the lists for meetings, contacts and GSRs. Jeanine needs full information, including name, address, email, and phone to register any member as GSR, DCM, District Committee Chair, etc... There were 61 in person attendees and 40 virtual attendees, a total of 101.

**CPC/PI:** No Report

**Corrections:** Diane F. for Scott B., Chair reported that the committee will be set up at the MD State Convention and will be participating in the CARC and Mini-Conference process. They would like more DCMs to join the committee and to help it grow. The committee is co-hosting a Corrections Workshop with District 42 on October 22, 2022, in Crownsville and working on a theme and format.

**Finance:** Frank M., Chair reported the committee wants to reach out to the districts and provide any training and resources they may need about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and finances. They are collaborating with the Workshop Committee to create a workshop for the fellowship. The July committee meeting will be looking at the budget for the year.

**Grapevine:** Brandi G., Chair reported the committee reached out to all DCMs to inquire about GV/LaVina reps and encourage interest. They will visit district meetings to talk about the AA Grapevine. They will be doing a presentation at the IGLC meeting on April 4, 2022. The committee will be setting up a table at the MD State Convention in June.

**IGLC:** Craig T, Chair reported there is Spanish translation available at all IGLC meetings. Birk S. visited the last meeting and provided information about the MD State Convention and Terry P. did a presentation on the CARC and Mini-Conference.

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**Literature:** Tyler J., Chair has books, kits, and plenty of pamphlets available and for sale. He is looking for a person to become chair and he would become co-chair.

**MD State Convention:** Craig T. for Birk S., Chair reported there are already 259 registrations for the convention. The banquet is 50% sold and the room reservations have met their commitment to the hotel.

**Mini-Conference:** Terry P., Chair reported the committee has been meeting bi-weekly. Come join the Mini-Conference April 9, 2022. Fliers, agendas and CARC trifolds are available for your groups. The GSO Manager, Bob W., is the speaker for the Mini-Conference and free lunch.

**Policies and Procedures:** Kathleen W. for Cynthia T., Chair reported the committee discussed the Area 29 Handbook formatting issues. Kathleen W. has done a review and initial reformat of the document. It will be reviewed by committee members at the April meeting. We will also be looking at several of the graphs and charts for updates. Pages were divided among the committee members, and we will review them in July.

**Technology:** Doug M., Co-Chair reported the committee has been working on the back end of the website and will be starting a revamp of the website. Does the fellowship recommend any changes?

**Treatment:** Diane F., Chair reported the committee is contacting all the intergroups and districts carrying meetings into treatment facilities. They are also trying to set up a Zoom call on May 2 with all of them to share ideas with each other. The committee hopes to set up a table at the MD State Convention. Technology set up a workable file for active treatment facilities and a fillable contact form for the committee. They are also working on a Bridging the Gap card.

**Workshop:** Bethany Y., Chair reported the committee is working on a workshop with Districts 19 and 33. Finance had reached out to plan a workshop.

**Closing statement by Brigitte F. thanking all the officers, committees, and participants. A Motion to adjourn was accepted followed by the Responsibility Statement at 3:00p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen W.  
Area 29, Panel 72 Secretary