

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly met virtually on March 20, 2021. The virtual doors opened at 8:30 a.m. for GSR & DCM Orientation. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. 69 members were on the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

SESSION ONE

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Lori M. welcomed everyone to the virtual Area 29 Assembly. Following no objections, the audio-only of this meeting was being recorded for the Archives and to ensure accuracy of the minutes. Lori M. reviewed the procedures for participation and voting in the electronic polling during the virtual meeting. Jeanine W., the Area 29 Registrar will be monitoring the eligible voters and asked that voting member put a “V” in front of their name. Introductions of new service members to the Area included the following GSRs and Alternate GSR: Chris W. – Better way of Life Group; Elliott H. – Baltimore City Men’s Group; Craig W. – Alternate GSR Friday Night Speaker Group; Jean S. – Oakland Mills Group; Laura M. – GSR Towson Women’s Group; Peggy M. – GSR Lexington Park Step Group; Peggy D. – GSR Catonsville Daily Reflection Group; Judy M. - GSR Saturday Brookland As Bill See’s It Group; Cathy W. GSR – Hampton 12 & 12 Group; and Monica H. - GSR New Beginnings Woman’s Group.

Chairpersons Report: Lori M. reported that since the Area Committee meeting in February, she has been working behind the scenes with the CARC process as needed and attended the CPC symposium planning meeting. As we move into the second half of Panel 70, the Committee chairs are doing a great job in performing the work of carrying the message and making carrying the message possible. Other members are doing a great job getting Cynthia T. prepared for the GSC. Continuing to send out the weekly “Area Updates”. Lori M. opened the floor to questions.

Secretary’s Report: Craig T. provided a summary of the December 12, 2020 Area Assembly Minutes, which were transmitted to the Assembly by email on March 5, 2021. ***The Motion to accept the Minutes was made by Michael J. and seconded by Frank M. The Motion carried unanimously.***

Treasurer’s Report: Terry P. reported as of March 3, 2021, account balances are: Operating Account: \$25,032.94. Special Savings for International Convention: \$3,532.02. Savings Account: \$10,000.44. We have additional assets of: Literature: \$5,728.73 and Grapevine: \$4,024.29.

Revenue:

Group Contributions as of March 3 are \$950.27. Individual Contributions as of March 3 are \$68.00. Other income (i.e., 7th Tradition’s basket, lunch donations, etc.) total \$242.05. Total Revenue \$1260.32 which is 3% of our budgeted revenue for 2021.

Expenses:

Through March 3, we have paid out a total of \$3,772.20, which is 10% of our budgeted expenses this year. ***The Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Brigitte F and seconded by Birk S. The Motion carried unanimously.***

Alternate Delegate’s Report: Kurt W. reported his activities since the February.

Mini-Conference 2021 – Planning Committee is meeting regularly, and things are well underway.

District Meetings – Attended many of District Meetings, discussing the Conference Agenda Review process and the upcoming Mini-Conference.

NERD Meetings – Attend the monthly NERD business meetings, keeping abreast of activities. Also attended the virtual NERD get-together on March 13th.

NERAD Meetings – Northeast Region Alternate Delegates meeting continues to meet bi-weekly, and the monthly meeting of the North American Alternate Delegates (NAAD’s) also continues.

NERAASA – Attended virtually on February 26th - 28th.

Intergroup Liaison Meeting – Attended on March 1st to discuss the CARC process and the Mini-Conference.

Upcoming General Service Conference – The process of separating the received background into individual agenda item backgrounds and distributing it to the various CARC Leaders went smoothly, especially considering the very tight schedule. CARC meetings have been held for CARC’s I, III, IV and V, with CARC II scheduled to meet on March 27, 2021. Thank you to the CARC Leaders: Beth O., Craig R., Tyler J., Mary M., and Frank M.; and our Mentors: Don B., Morgan J., Lori M., Bob C., and Peggy R. Would also like to thank all those who stepped up as reviewers and participated in CARC discussions. All have done exceptional jobs!

Correspondence – I get a lot of emails, text messages, and phone calls. Keep them coming.

Upcoming Scheduled Activities include:

2021 Mini-Conference – The Mini-Conference Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021. The Mini-Conference is held virtually on April 10, 2021.

CARC II Meeting – Scheduled for March 27, 2021.

District and Intergroup Meetings – Plan to continue to attend District and Intergroup meetings. If any DCMs would like Kurt W. to attend their meeting, please contact him.

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Delegate's Report: Cynthia T. provided her "Delegate Report" on news and events at the General Service Office and A.A. around our Area. She provided Random Musings of your Delegate; General Service Board and GSO Updates; Financial Updates; A.A Grapevine News; Northeast Region Updates & Nerd Happening; and Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) Updates. Cynthia finished by taking questions from members on the Committee Meeting. Cynthia T. thanked everyone who participated in the CARC process this year. She was confident that the work that was done will enable her to effectively carry the voice of the members of Area 29 to conference and I look forward to reporting back to you in detail about the business from the 71st General Service Conference on May 15, 2021. To review details on these topics and the Delegates upcoming virtual travels, please refer to the "Delegate Report". A soft copy of her "Delegate Report" for March 2021 was emailed to the Area and posted on the MGS website.

Break at 9:55 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:03 a.m. with 72 members attending the meeting.

SESSION TWO

Committee Reports

Accessibilities: Chair Jessica W. reported the committee is comprised of Co-Chair Jean B., Don B., and Sara S. They meet as needed and the last meeting was on March 15th. The last assistance that was provided was resources of a deaf members. Our "Better with Age Group" that started due to the pandemic meets virtually and a member suggested doing a third day of the week for meetings and willing to assist in making this happens. A group Conscience will be taken to see if interested and which day would work best. Looking at adding closed caption to the meeting. Considering how to handle their prudent reserve and what to do with excess funds. Grapevine has granted permission to reprint and use the 2020 – 21 "Better with Age" article from Grapevine Magazine written by Don B. for outreach to the senior community. No upcoming events planned.

CPC/PI: Chair Pat S. reported she combined report for the CPC Committee and the PI Committee. The CPC Committee has held two virtual meetings for orientation to an event that will be hosted quarterly, starting in May 2021. This event is titled "The CPC Symposium." The Committee will host a 90-minute symposium that will bring more awareness to the professional community about what A.A. is and is not, beyond the pamphlets. There will be many moving parts beginning with a list of professionals within Area 29. Our first invitation list to create for the symposium will be Clergy People. It will be a task to break it up into denominations to reach as many as possible. We will have a panel of three speakers who will speak on how and why A.A. works with the professionals. The Symposiums will be open to anyone, but they will be catered toward a selected professional audience. There is a need for our services and professionals within our communities to be there for the suffering alcoholic. The CPC Symposiums will only be a success if we have members of the fellowship supporting us. Please contact Pat S. to volunteer for one of the many volunteer opportunities this committee has to offer.

Finance: Chair Brigitte F. reported the committee has two motions they will be bringing forward to the body for a vote later this morning. Please welcome Jean B., DCM of District 28 to our Area Finance Committee. Jean has already become a valuable addition to The Committee, which is also made up of our Treasurer Terry P., Jim. R., and Bob C. The committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. At the last meeting, Terry P. Area 29 Treasurer took us on a virtual tour of our online Quick Books account, and we did a review of the Area's financial records for the year 2020, as recommended in the MGS Handbook. Everything was in order. The Quick Books program used for our Area financials was installed and finetuned over the past several years by past Area Treasurers and finance committees and makes it easy to keep the books accurate.

Grapevine: Chair Brandi D. reported still getting acclimated. We will be holding our newly formed monthly committee meeting on the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is March 23, 2021 to meet and hold a Sharing Session. She reached out to all DCMs and has 7 District Grapevine chairs planning to attending. Anyone interested in the grapevine is encouraged to attend.

Host: Chair Shauna K. present, no report.

Intergroup Liaison: Chair Kathi K. reported the IGLC committee meets on the first Monday of the month. In March, Kurt W. discuss the upcoming CARC and Mini-Conference. Kathi attended NERAASA as the recording secretary for the Central Office and Intergroup Roundtable. The next IGLC meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 6:30 p.m. Jen G., Baltimore IG Administrator, will continue the ICOAA conversation and Linda J., Area 29 Policies and Procedures Chair will discuss the MGS Policies and Procedures Committee effort to collect information on "what's working and what's not working" for our virtual meetings.

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Literature: Interim Chair Tyler J. reported that the MGS literature is still safely stored in his warehouse. Can get literature to members if needed.

MARGENSER: Lori stated the position is currently vacant.

2022 MD State Convention: Chair David R. reported the MGS State Convention Committee met February 21ST to discuss Next Steps to plan for the 50th Maryland State Convention in 2022. We recognize the strong sentiment within the Area that the 50th convention milestone be fully celebrated in a way that only face-to-face fellowship safe from Covid-19 concerns can provide. Our Program Chair Victor K. and AI-Anon Chair Katie S. reported that, depending on the new dates, Speakers previously invited to the 2020 convention are still available to come in 2022. The Clarion Frederick Event Center has blocked out the weekend of June 24-26, 2022. They are drafting a new contract based on previous provisions, including a Covid-19 related Force Majeure clause. We will review that and present it to the Area Chair to sign. Much of the decision making about the convention was previously taken care of. Our theme will still be “50 Years One Day at a Time.” The Committee membership remains intact, but we always need more help, not just at the convention but now, during the planning stages. Please email me your offer to join us at 2022mgsconvention@gmail.com

2021 Mini-Conference: Kurt W. reported the 2021 Mini-Conference planning is well underway. The committee consist of Kurt W., Frank M., Jessica W., Cynthia T., Mary M., Shauna L., and Linda J. The virtual Mini-Conference will be held on April 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Linda J. has obtained the guest speaker from GSO, Racy J., who sits on the Public Information Desk at GSO. With a virtual event, we have an opportunity to try something different. In the past we had presentations and discussion by CARC, with each CARC presenting assigned Agenda items followed by discussion. This year we are planning on having presentations and discussion grouped by topic (i.e., Literature, Finance, etc.). Therefore, we will be bouncing around between CARC’s. This should make for a smoother flow, with related topics grouped together. The agenda is still being finalized, awaiting input from CARC II. Those that attended NERAASA got to see the virtual closed captioning feature. We will be using this at the Mini-Conference to help with accessibility. We are also going to ask that those attending drop their name, service position (if any), and email in the chat so we can assemble something in the way of a roster of attendees. To make for a smoother, less disruptive, flow we will be limiting chat and screen-sharing capabilities. Any presenter that wants to put something on the screen, please send it to me by Wednesday, April 7, 2021, so we can have them organized and ready to go. The next Committee meeting is scheduled virtually for March 22, 2021. If you have ideas feel free to join us or send me an email. We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to act as co-hosts and “bouncers.”

Policies and Procedures: Jeanine W., Committee member reported for Chair Linda J. The Policies and Procedures Committee met virtually on February 22nd to discuss feedback received thus far from Panel 70 Officers regarding Maintenance of Corporate Documents and Services. The Area Motions and current practices project, which covers 1953-2021 is complete. The Committee discussed at length safest method of storage and a member was assigned to gather information on potential safe storage vehicles in other Areas and GSO, and report back to March committee meeting. Very few members provided feedback on what worked and did not worked on virtual platform for Area meetings. A member of the committee is developing a survey. The Committee is coordinating a plan for the upcoming process for MGS Handbook review and updates. All Committee Chairs will be contacted by a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee in mid-summer to begin the process of reviewing Committee information in MGS Handbook.

Technology: Craig T., Area 29 Secretary reported for Tom H., Technology Chair. They are keeping the website up to date with events, have simplified the main menu at the top, and recently started posting the Chairs weekly Highlights on the “News” link. The email distribution lists are up to date and we are also in the process of streamlining the list.

Treatment: Chair Frank M. reported since the last Assembly, the Treatment Committee has worked on simplifying the Bridging the Gap process for Area 29. The 30 forms that were on the marylandaa.org website have been reduced to four. They are downloadable and may be edited to suit your local needs. Frank M. thanked the Baltimore Intergroup and Jen G. who have provided invaluable assistance in this effort. The turnaround time within Maryland has generally been reduced to at most 48 hours to find a temporary contact and outside the area, usually within 72 hours, a drastic improvement. The numbers have been on the increase, with the vast majority coming through my email from Tranquility Woods. There are also PowerPoint presentations available in the MGS SharePoint app, which you may use to explain Bridging the Gap at meetings or workshops. There is one for treatment and one for corrections. Those involved and interested in Bridging the Gap have met in January and March and have discussed issues about the challenges around the pandemic, singleness of purpose in communicating with facilities, how to encourage virtual meetings and lately begin to prepare for the upcoming reopening to face to face meetings. Frank M. presented at a workshop for Area 59 on Treatment and Bridging the Gap and helped with the tech crew at NERAASA, as well as brought back several innovative ideas for our Area Treatment

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Committee. The goal for this year is to ensure we are ready to carry the message into treatment centers when they are ready for us and will be working with Intergroups and DCMs and local Treatment Committees.

Registrar: Jeanine W. reported “thank you” to all DCMs for their diligence in updating their District’s records as she attempts to update service positions, meetings, and contacts in the database. Jeanine W. attended the Registrar NERAASA Roundtable and was informed that although the plan was to allow DCMs read only access to the GSO databases by early March, it will now be towards the end of March. She has also discovered that many of the paper changes she submitted during the installation of Fellowship New Connection were never completed. She attended the Lower Shore Intergroup meeting and talked about the relationship between Intergroups and GSO, that they are separate entities and that registering with one does not automatically register you with the other. She invited those groups who wish to register with GSO to do so and provided links to the forms. She also has been invited by Kathi K. to attend the IGLC meeting to provide information at some point in the future. Area 29 currently has 942 Active groups, 170 with unknown status, and 29 with Districts unknown. Currently contacting those groups to update them.

DCM Reports:

District 1, 3 & 4: No reports.

District 6: DCM Nancy H. reported District 6 meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month virtually with 6- 9 groups represented. The District has been supporting the work of the Area 29 Registrar in updating Area records on groups in their District. In the process, they have updated their District records on their groups. Two new groups have formed because of COVID-19. Both formed when the groups split over whether to stay virtual or return to in-person meetings. One meeting closed.

District 7: DCM Mary M. reported their Outreach Committee is working to discover the status of groups in the District. Mary M. attended NERAASA and purchased a recording of the Roundtable summaries which she recommends Committee Chair listen to. Meets virtually on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with 11 members in attendance.

District 9: DCM Mike H. reported District 9 meets in a hybrid meeting on the 3rd Tuesday every other month. 6 members are online and 6 are in-person. District 9 Workshop Committee has scheduled a virtual workshop entitled: “Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension” on Saturday morning May 1, 2021. Three speakers will present. More details will be given on an upcoming flyer. The District 9 website, www.d9mdaa.org has an excellent and accurate tool in the posted directory of meetings, listing a slowly increasing number of in-person meetings in Carrol County, a modest number of hybrid meetings all in Carroll County and a good listing of virtual meetings with links/meeting IDs and passwords. Participated in CARC IV.

District 10: DCM Bethany Y. reported the District meets at 4:30 p.m. on the 1st Saturday of the month with 9 to 10 groups represented. Deborah G. is the new District Treasury, Joe R. is the new Grapevine Committee Chair, and Chris W. is the new GSR from the Better Way of Life Group. In March, they discussed the possibility of continuing the ‘Forgiveness’ play. ideas for workshops and creating a new District flyer.

District 11: GSR Pete S. reported they currently do not have a DCM and COVID-19 has split the District when in-person meeting started to come back. There is a lot of good energy, so they are coming back as an active District.

District 14: No report.

District 15: DCM Tyler J. reported they meet virtually on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. with 4-8 in attendance. No plan to go in-person. They met with Terry P. Area Treasurer to discuss how to set up a bank account so they could create a Venmo account to accept donations. Looking into starting a joint workshop with District 18 on GSR training and information. Their members gave good feedback on our CARC 3 agenda item for presentation. We have another “Local Legacies” speaker panel on Steps 5,6,7 planned. The date and time to be announced later.

District 17: No Report.

District 18: DCM Kathleen W. reported the District meets virtually the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. with 7 – 9 groups represented. They 2 Hybrid Meetings, 25 virtual meetings in-person, 6 non active meeting and several in-person weather permitting. A few in-person meetings are seeing decreased attendance. Some churches may open in May. Voted for \$150.00 be donated to Carry the Message at Grapevine. Were able to donate 6 subscriptions to three local facilities. Hosting “Sisters of Sobriety – A History of the Early Women of Alcoholics Anonymous’ on March 2, 2021 from 1:00 -3:30 p.m. Speakers Gail L., Akron, OH - Archivist and Nancy K, Galt, CA Alternate Archivist. They participated in CARC III.

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At their last meeting they discussed how they can get more GSRs, and people involved in service. Talked about meetings that do not have GSRs and members at the District meeting volunteered to call friends or contacts at those meetings and talk up service or attend and talk about service. Continue to create bi-monthly District 18 Newsletter, asking for contributions for sections “Heard in the Rooms”, “Advice from a Sponsor”, and personal stories about recovery and A.A. history in Baltimore or even any area in Maryland. Attended meetings in District 34, which has not been active and was able to update their and District 19 contact information with the Area Registrar.

District 19: DCM Jenna F. reported the District meets virtually the 4th Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m. Majority of groups are meeting on a virtual platform except for 3 meetings that meet in-person or as a hybrid. They have an Outreach Committee that is actively working to update the group information to provide to the Area Registrar. The Outreach Committee and the Alternate DCM, Doug M is working on developing a website for District 19.

District 20: DCM Dave M. reported that District meets in-person on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Attendance is low with typically only the DCM, 2 GSRs, Secretary, Treasurer, Archives Chair and one visitor. Meetings are slowly reopening as hybrids or in-person.

District 22: DCM Donta S. reported he is the new DCM for District 22. The District meets virtually with 3-6 groups represented at the District meetings. Wants to keep the District active with events and workshop to help carry the message in the Area. Beverly M. the new Alternate DCM stated that the number on in-person meeting are increasing in the District.

District 23, 24, 25, & 27: No reports.

District 28: DCM Jean B. reported District 28 meets virtually the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with 11 groups Represented. 2 GSRs said they were meeting in-person, 1 was hybrid. Outreach Committee members are visiting meetings and we had a new GSR visit our meeting as the result. They participated in CARCIII and discussed the Mini-Conference. They are collecting Grapevine magazines and are distributing them to different halfway houses in the district.

District 30, 31 & 32: No reports.

District 33: DCM Ashtin P. reported District 33 meeting virtually on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. with 3 GSRs in attendance. Laura M. is the new GSR, and Brittany is the new Alternate GSR for Towson Women’s Group. They discussed at the District meetings how to get members involved in service. GSRs have reported back that there are several groups in the District that are meeting in-person and not following appropriate guidelines. A group has been asked to leave a church for not following guidelines. Another group is meeting in-person and not requiring individuals to wear masks.

District 34: No report.

District 35: DCM Dwayne B. reported that District 35 continues to move forward with reorganization. They have all new officers including DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, and District Intergroup Rep. Additionally, they have a new Grapevine Chair, two new assistants to the Institutions/Corrections Chair, and a new Communications Chair. We are all excited about learning our new responsibilities and working together in this new phase of our A.A. service. The meeting this month was led by Alternate DCM due to multiple commitments for DCM, which adds to District growth and development. Further, Jeanine W. presented information regarding CARC to the District, which was particularly valuable, since we have so many new people involved. Additional discussions this month involved improving District 35 participation and after discussion, past District 35 DCM, Jeanine W. wisely and gently provided the reminder of attraction rather than promotion. Finally, discussion took place regarding using a QR code, which has already been developed within our Intergroup to allows easy access to meeting schedules within Intergroup, which includes Districts 35, 1 and 36.

District 36: DCM Brandi D. reported District 36 meets virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. At the last District meeting there were 9 GSRs in attendance which is an increase in participation. They are considering conducting their meeting as a hybrid soon. They have 34 registered groups, 3 unregistered groups and several that are suspended. Two groups have decided to close. District 36 is sponsoring a virtual Treasurer Workshop on March 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Area 29 Treasurer, Terry P. will be presenting. There has been a QR code developed for their Intergroup along with District 1 and 35 to allows easy access to meeting schedules within Intergroups They participated in CARC II. And look further to the presentations next week. Two new GSRs, David H. and Susan B. who has stepped up to be the Grapevine Committee Chair.

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District 37: DCM Jim R. reported District 37 meets virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. with 3 members in attendance. They plan to start meeting in-person in June. They have 14 groups that are meeting virtually or in-person. There is number of groups that have stopped meeting complete and is having trouble reaching out to these groups to see what their intentions are.

District 38 & 39: No Reports.

District 40: DCM Debbie P. reported District 40 Monthly meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 6:30 p.m. with 5 members in attendance. Debbie P. welcomed Rich and Heather, two new GSRs in District 40. Several members attended NERAASA. The District paid the registration fee for anyone that was interested. They participated in CARC IV. They are looking for a new District Treasurer. Reported 49 groups and working to get the Registrar the updated information. Creating a flyer to try to get people interested in becoming a GSR.

District 41: Miki, Alternate DCM reported they are working to determine what meetings are happening and how and where they are being conducted. Working on getting GSRs for each group. Have been involved in the CARC IV process.

District 42: DCM Diane F. reported District 42 meets virtually the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Have been working with the Area Registrar to update the group list. District 42 currently has 27 registered groups, 3 Hybrid Groups, 13 Groups Meet Online, 4-5 Groups in person at SSRC, and 4 Inactive Groups during pandemic. 8 Groups responded to a District 42 survey that was sent out on March 1, 2021. Most want the District to assist with more workshops and keep the website updated with event flyers. District 42 website is under renovation with a new logo; print accessible per page on phone; looking into online contribution portal through their webmaster. District 42 is planning to have a Workshop.

District 46: DCM Trini C. reported they are gathering information from the groups since the District had been inactive for a long time. Some groups met in-person, but they are not social distancing or wearing mask. There are other groups that are considering opening and are interested in what the current CDC guidelines are for meeting events.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Brigitte F., Area 29 Finance Committee Chair, presented a motion. ***Motion: Request that the Area Assembly approve an incremental increase in the mileage reimbursement rate from \$.35 to \$.40 in the 2021 Area Operating Budget. This incremental increase continues the Finance Committee's effort to align the MGS mileage reimbursement rate with the average rate for nonprofits.*** The Motion comes from the Area Committee and does not require a second. Brigitte F. explained the background information that was transmitted to the Assembly by email on March 5th. ***Following discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.***

Brigitte F., Area 29 Finance Committee Chair, presented a motion. ***Motion: Request that the Area Assembly approve moving \$10,000 from the Operating Account to the Prudent Reserve Account, bringing our current Prudent Reserve to \$20,000.*** The Motion comes from the Area Committee and does not require a second. Terry P., Area 29 Treasurer explained the background information that was transmitted to the Assembly by email on March 5th. ***Following discussion, a vote was taken, and there was 1 opposing vote. Beverly M. voted no because she had a question on the substance of the motion and not a statement in opposition. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.***

Break for lunch at 11:56 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 12:12 p.m. with 55 members attending the meeting.

SESSION THREE

CPC Symposium Sharing Session:

Lori M. provided background on the CPC Symposium Sharing Sessions. At the Area 29 Inventory Assembly in October 2020, it was suggested to consider hosting a regular, periodic information session for the public or the professional community. This project was handed over to Pat S., the CPC/PI Committee Chair. Pat S. has taken the led to put the Committee together to make this happen. Other members that have contributed to these efforts are Frank M., Treatment Chair and Kathi K., IGLC. The basis for what the Area is working on comes from the CPC Handbook and is regularly practiced. Pat S. and Frank M. discussed the type of feedback that they were looking for during the breakout session which included commitment of volunteer commitments, how could clergy better serve the Area, the best way to promote the event, logistics and any other suggestion that members could provide. The first Symposium will be targeted towards clergy. The Area Assembly was auto assigned to three breakout groups for 20 minutes for discussion at 12:22 p.m. The Area Assembly reconvened at 12:45 p.m. and the recorders from each breakout session provided a summary of the

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suggestions so we can collectively gather the thoughts of the Area as we move toward our first CPC Symposium Sharing Session. The Audio only of this session was provided to Pat S and Frank M. for the accuracy of their notes.

“The Big Book - Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access” Sharing Session:

Cynthia T. stated that a letter was sent to the Conference members from the GSB Chair and the Chair of the Trustees Literature Committee. Cynthia read excerpts of the letter that, The Conference Committee on Literature request that the Trustees make available to the fellowship as soon as possible in Spanish, English and French, the presentation, “*The Big Book - Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access*” which was presented to the Committee during their May 2, 2020 Agenda Reduction Meeting. The Committee noted the importance for the fellowship to be informed about the nature of the accessibilities challenges with regards to A.A. literature.” This particular session was not recorded but as of January 28, 2021, they had re-recorded, and this became available for the Delegates to share. The request is, “The Trustees and Conference Literature Committee asked the conference Delegates to share the presentation in their Areas, requesting discussion and feedback from A.A. Members. We ask how-ever that you use some discretion in your sharing perhaps with a smaller segment of your membership such as District Chairs. We also believe the presentation should not be provided to non A.A. individuals. We believe that these issues should remain internal to the fellowship for now as we do not have group conscience on these matters and would not want conclusions to be drawn publicly based on matters raised in the publication.”

Kurt W provided the video to the Assembly followed by an open discussion by the members present. Cynthia T. took notes of the comments from this session so she could forward them to the Trustees Literature Committee. The Audio only of this session was provided to Cynthia T and Kurt W. for the accuracy of their notes.

Ask It Basket: Beverly M. asked if the motion to increasing the prudent reserve to \$20,000.00 was brought about by a one-time event or was there something that the Committee foresees in the future or other things possibly happening that have not been taken account for? Terry P. responded that as a service entity, we take a routine looks at our prudent reserve, looking to make sure that our financial instrument is serving our needs. The Finance committee over the last year with impact of COVID-19, saw a change in things and as Treasurer, Terry P. suggested to the Finance Committee it would be a good idea to review the prudent reserve and how we formula this. They did it as a Committee. The recommendation came out of this routine review. The prudent reserve is in place to meet the needs of the one-off events that you can not plan for. The prudent reserve that we just increased will allow us to provide information to the alcoholic that is still suffering for up to 4 months and to meet our routine obligations if there is a discontinuity in the funds that come in the form of contributions and if there are some unexpected expenses that come up that we did not account for and be able to operate on a routine basis.

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry P. and seconded by Beverly M. The motion to closed carried unanimously. The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig T.
Area 29, Panel 70 Secretary