

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Special Area Assembly met virtually on August 16, 2021. The virtual doors opened at 6:45 p.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. 62 members were on the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Lori M. welcomed everyone to the virtual Special Area 29 Assembly.

This Special Area Assembly was called for the purpose of considering possible agenda items for next year's General Service Conference, and to prepare members to fully participate as voters and candidates in the upcoming Election Assembly in October. She 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. Jeanine reviewed who is eligible to vote at the Area Assembly.

Introductions for new: GSR's: CC W., GSR Sunday Morning Sobriety Group, D35; Carol, Treasurer How Group D17; Jane M., GSR Just for Today Group, D11; Joe R., GSR ABC Group, Baltimore; David L., GSR Smoke Free Group & Secretary for D35; Michelle D., GSR Early Bird Meeting, D40; Lucas M., GSR Six Day Group, D4; Lynne GSR Friday Fellowship Group D41; Brian J., GSR Hagerstown Group D20; Fred W., GSR Daily Reprieve D1; Jim S., GSR New Life Group D35; Scott GSR Joint Candlelight Group D6; Mary Jo C., GSR Summit Avenue Group D20;

Delegate Report-Back: Cynthia T. welcomed Francis G., Northeast Regional Trustee and Sally T., Alternate Delegate Area 12, Delaware to the Area 29 Special Assembly meeting. Cynthia provided quick highlights on news and events at the General Service Office and A.A. around our Area. There was no formal 'Delegates Report' emailed out or posted on the MGS website. For details on the topics discussed the Delegates past and upcoming virtual travels, please contact Cynthia at a29p70Delegate@gmail.com. Cynthia finished by taking questions from members on the Assembly Meeting.

Lori M., Area Chair stated the September Area Committee meeting will be held virtually. A decision on how the October Area Election Assembly will be hosted will be made soon.

Brigitte F. made a motion, seconded by Debbie P. to suspend regular business for consideration of the three potential Agenda Items. The motion carried unanimously at 7.28 p.m. by a show of hands.

Kurt W., Alternate Delegate provided an overview of the CARC process, stating at this meeting we are considering 3 proposed agenda items which needs to be submitted to GSO by September 15, not December 15th as in the past.

Agenda items:

Motion made by Diane F., DCM District 42, CARC II Leader: For the purpose of maintaining unity, we the fellowship should continue to follow the 1995 Advisory Action which states that the Appendices should remain as is. If the Appendices have been changed, they should be restored as they appear in the Fourth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous and be continued into the proposed Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. This advisory Action was reaffirmed in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 and remains in place today.

Diane F. explained the information that was transmitted to the Assembly by email on August 9, 2021 and provided a detailed presentation to help members understand the purpose of the motion. ***Following discussion, A voting poll was launched with 46 eligible voters. 30 votes or 66% for, 16 votes or 34% opposed, the Motion does not carry with substantial unanimity.***

A break was taken at 8:13 p.m. so Lori could consult with Don B., acting Parliamentarian concerning voting procedures and determining the results. Reconvened at 8:20 with 64 members on meeting.

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Following the break, **Tyler J. provided a Minority Opinion. Scott H. made a Motion to Reconsider, seconded by Shauna L. Following procedural questions, 51 eligible voters, 31 votes or 61% for, 20 votes or 39% opposed. Motion to reconsider carried by a simple majority. Debate was reopened after Diane F. read the original motion. Following discussion, a voting poll was launched with 52 eligible voters, 27 votes or 54% for, 23 votes or 46% opposed. Motion does not carry with substantial unanimity.**

Lori M., Area Chair requested a sense of the room as to how to proceed since there was only 10 minutes left in the regular scheduled meeting and we still have two proposed Agenda Items and the Election Preparation and Discussion to cover. It was decided to continue to review the remaining two proposed agenda items and reschedule the Election Preparation and Discussion for another time in preparation for the Biennial Election Assembly on October 16, 2021.

A break was taken at 8:52 p.m., reconvened 8:57 p.m. with 56 members on the meeting.

Motion made by Diane F. DCM District 42, CARC II Leader: To maintain uniformity in our literature, a draft Introduction (similar to the Introduction found in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) be added to the front matter of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Diane F. explained the information that was transmitted to the Assembly by email on August 9, 2021 and provided a detailed presentation to help members understand the purpose of the motion. **Following discussion, a voting poll was launched with 50 eligible voters, 40 votes or 80% for, 10 votes or 20% opposed. The Motion carried with substantial unanimity. Ginger H and Sharon B. provided a Minority Opinion. There was no Motion to Reconsider. The Motion carried with substantial unanimity.**

Motion made by Diane F. DCM District 42, CARC II Leader: For the purpose of maintaining unity the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. If revisions to pages 117 and 66 have been changed, they should be restored to the original version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Diane F. explained the information that was transmitted to the Assembly by email on August 9, 2021 and provided a detailed presentation to help members understand the purpose of the motion. **Following discussion, a voting poll was launched with 47 eligible voters. 27 votes or 59% for, 20 votes or 41% opposed, the Motion does not carry with substantial unanimity. Linda J., Fred W., Jessica W., Trini, and Tyler J. provided a Minority Opinion.**

Lucas M. made a Motion to Reconsider, seconded by Mark B. 46 eligible voters, 29 votes or 64% for, 17 votes or 36% opposed. Motion to Reconsider carried by a simple majority. Debate was reopened after Diane F. read the original motion. Following discussion, a voting poll was launched with 43 eligible voters, 17 votes or 40% for, 26 votes or 60% opposed. The Motion does not carry with substantial unanimity.

A motion to adjourn was made by Cynthia T. and seconded by Kelly W. The Motion to close carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

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