The Maryland General Service Area Committee met virtually on December 12, 2020. The virtual doors opened at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. 58 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 meeting, and 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. Following no objections, the audio-only of this meeting was being recording for the Archives and to ensure accuracy of the minutes. Introductions of new service members to the Area Assembly included: Audrey K., GSR Up Town Big Book; Dwayne B., District 35 DCM Elect; Rika W., Alternate GSR Towson Women’s Group; Jerry Z., District 35 Alternate DCM Elect; Marilyn R. Alternate GSR Woman’s Serenity Group; Paul Y. District 35 Treasurer Elect and GSR Smoke Free Sobriety Group.

**Chairpersons Report:** Lori M. reported that the weekly updates are continuing and well received. The information is being forwarded and posted on Intergroup and District websites. Based on the Area Inventory that we performed in October, there are a few efforts that are in the works and that we will hear more about for some of our Committee Chair. Lori will be gathering together members who would be interested in being part of a MarGenSer Committee to revamp and restart the MarGenSer over the coming year. Let Lori M. know if interested in serving on this committee or any Area Committee. Lori M. shared the proposed 2021 Area Calendar. At this time, all Area meetings are planned as virtual unless conditions would allow for in-person meetings after June. The January Leadership meeting and the February Area Committee will be combined in February again this year. NERAASA, NERD, GSC, NERF will all be virtual. We will not have a July Area Committee or August Area Assembly meeting to focus more on the work that the Committees are doing and create space on the calendar for workshops and other events. The By-laws provide that an Area Assembly could be called if needed to conduct urgent business. We will send out interim reports during this time so members can monitor what is happening in the Area. The reminder of the year will be the same as past years. Please note that we are not having a MD State Convention in 2021.

**Secretary’s Report:** Craig T. provided a summary of the October 17, 2020 Area Assembly Minutes, which were transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. ***The Motion to accept the Minutes was made by Frank M. and seconded by Misty L. The Motion carried unanimously.***

**Treasurer’s Report:** Terry P. reported as of November 29, 2020, account balances were: Operating Account: $25,292.02. Special Savings for International Convention: $3,532.02. Savings Account: $10,000.19. We have additional assets of: Literature: $5,728.73 & Grapevine: $4,024.29

Revenue:

Group Contributions as of November 29 are $23,464.78. Other income (i.e., 7th Traditions basket, lunch donations, etc.) total $5779.34. Total Revenue $29,244.12 which is 51% of our budgeted revenue for 2020. At this time last year MGS had received 104% of the 2019-budgeted revenue.

Expenses:

Through November 29, we have paid out a total of $27,829.87, which is 38% of our budgeted expenses this year.

At this time last year MGS had expended 63% of the 2019 budgeted expenses.

***Following Discussion, the Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Misty L. and seconded by Shauna K. The Motion carried unanimously.***

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:** Kurt W. reported his activities since October.

2021 Mini-Conference – The Mini-Conference Committee had met twice since October.

District & Intergroup Meetings – Have attended several District and Intergroup meetings. Will continue to attend meetings as invited, keeping abreast of activities in our Area. Attended the Baltimore Intergroup Online Extravaganza, celebrating 80 years of A.A. in Baltimore.

NERD Meetings – Continues to attend the monthly NERD business meetings, keeping attune with what is going on in the wider A.A.

Virtual Eastern US and Canada Forum – My biggest takeaway from this event was during the workshop on Fostering Participation. The question was asked: Do I wait for others to approach me? Or Do I seek them out? I hope everyone else who attended managed to leave with at least one takeaway.

Alt Delegate Meetings – Continue to attend the bi-weekly Northeast Region Alternate Delegates meeting. There are new Alternate Delegates, as many Areas held elections this fall.

Budgeting –Participate in budget discussions with the Finance Committee. Thanked our outgoing Finance Committee Chair, Jim R. for all his service.

Proposed Conference Agenda Items – Participated in the preparation of the proposed Conference Agenda Item.

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 December 21, 2020

District and Intergroup Meetings – Plan to attend District 41 meeting to discuss the CARC process on January 6, 2020.

**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, which included a tribute to Ron M., Area 29, Panel 64 Past Delegate who passed away on December 1, 2020; 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. To review details on these topics and the Delegatesupcoming virtual travels, please refer to the “Delegate Report”. A soft copy of her “Delegate Report” for December 2020 was emailed to the Area and posted on the MGS website.

**Break at 10:05 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m. with 53 members attending the meetings.**

***SESSION TW0***

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business

**Committee Reports**

**Accessibilities**: Chair Jessica W. reported that she is meeting Co-chair Jean B. and member Don B. as needed for updates, changes and to address issues. They communicated last week.
Recent work includes: Coordinated ASL interpretation for the Baltimore Intergroup 80th Anniversary Extravaganza and did outreach to Baltimore's deaf addictions counseling about the event. The event also had Hispanic Intergroup participation and was interpreted English to Spanish and Spanish to English. Attend the recent MD State Convention meeting. Responded to a request for information from Area 76 about what our Accessibilities Committee is and does and how we provide services in the Area. Provided resources for assistance for a deaf alcoholic nearing completion of a rehabilitation program. Followed up with local Senior Centers about any new needs. I have not heard back. As a reminder the Better with Age group virtual meeting for Seniors 55+ and any member who cares to attend continues to meet and is listed on the online Intergroup Directory. Attended the Virtual Northeast Forum held by GSO. For upcoming events I am looking to attend a meeting being planned with Jen G. and members from the current Hispanic Intergroup in Silver Spring about the possibility of a Hispanic Intergroup starting here in Baltimore.

**Archives**: Chair Bud R. - Lori M., Area Chair reported that Mike M. the past Archives Chair is coordinating with Bud R., Archives Chair and Terry P., Area Treasurer to pay the rent for The 857 Club this year so the archives can remain where they are.

**Corrections**: Chair Chuck R. Lori M., Area Chair reported that she met Chuck R. and he plans to meet with Intergroups with what they are doing. He said one of the difficulties they are running into is that most of the correctional institutions are closed to visitors, so they are becoming more creative to carry the message into facilities.

**Finance**: Chair Jim R. reported he will rotate from the Finance Committee Chair position at the end of the year and hopes to work on outreach on the eastern shore. Jim thanked the Finance Committee members, who consist of Brigitte F. - Co-Chair, Terry P., Bob C., and Cynthia T. Jim also thanked Kurt W. who sat in on many of the meetings. The Committee Meets on virtually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 5pm. The next meeting is December 14, 2020. The continuing contribution to GSO is a great program but the MGS website does not have a continuing contribution button available. We can make individual contributions but need to work on the continuing contribution option.

**Grapevine:** Chair Meryl T. reported that they have collected some Grapevine and they have been delivered to various locations including AAIG and BAIG for distributing. If you have Grapevines, please hand them out where they are needed. The Grapevine effort is wonderful but also consider extending a hand or phone call during these unprecedented times.

**Host:** Shauna K. present, no report.

**Intergroup Liaison**: Chair Kathi K. reported that every IGLC meeting offers Spanish Translation. Planning to participate in the upcoming virtual Baltimore Intergroup meeting to see how they can help with the rising of a Maryland Hispanic Intergroup. The IGLC met on December 7th with Frank M., Treatment Committee Chair to talk about how Intergroups have adapted the Bridging the Gap program during the pandemic. BTG is not functioning well during COVID since most treatment centers are not open to visitor. Some ways Intergroups have adapted are the Phone Buddies program, keep the Where & When updated with in-person and online meetings and passwords on the websites, and using a temporary phone contacts on hotlines hot lines when needed. Kathi attended the Regional Forum on December 5th and plan to attend again on the 19th. Kathi reported on how the administer Jen G. from Baltimore Intergroup, along with other IG administrators and managers, were a feature and the theme was “What it was like, what happened and what it’s like now”.  Baltimore Intergroup is a leader in the A.A. Intergroup community with other larger county and state Intergroups. They discussed how they adapted and continue to carry the message during the COVID-19 pandemic. Box 459 had a summary of the ICOAA Seminar. Intergroups are on the front line and are integral in reaching the newcomer, supplying literature, guidance on group problems, public relations, and more. GSO and the Intergroups continue to work on improving their communications and cooperation. GSO has been actively including Intergroups in many important decisions like literature and pricing with a more collaborative approach, recognizing Intergroups as partners with a shared purpose. The Intergroups created ICOAA in 1986 and use it primarily as a forum for the exchange of resources for Intergroup managers and administrators. The ICOAA manager’s slack channel does not include IG Chairs, as there are nuances that make their jobs different.  The next IGLC meeting is January 4th at 6:30 p.m. when we will meet to review the topic of newsletters.  Southern Maryland is one of our featured speakers along with Ocean City and West Central Intergroup.  We will also have a short visit in January from James W. who now has taken on the Tuesday Standing Institution Meeting, which is a webinar-based HIPAA compliant A.A. speaker meeting ready to be held virtually in any Institution or Treatment Center for a ready-made meeting. Many Intergroups are seeing the same struggle that Districts have with getting a designated person to represent the group at their monthly meetings. The pandemic has not helped participation in some counties, but then others have seen an increase because of the elimination of travel time.  Workshops for some of our Intergroups struggling with participation have been suggested.

**Literature**: Interim Chair Tyler J. reported that the MGS literature is still safely stored in his warehouse.

**2021 MD State Convention**: Chair David R. reported that the MGS State Convention Committee met Sunday December 6. We decided, after serious discussion and with substantial unanimity, to postpone the 50th Maryland State

Convention to June 2022. There is strong sentiment that the 50th convention milestone be fully celebrated in a way that only face-to-face fellowship can provide.  We expect that once COVID-19 safety is reasonably guaranteed the pent-up demand for real handshakes and hugs will drive attendance way up. The Clarion Frederick Event Center has been informed and is ready to re-engage with us in the spring to plan for 2022. We had discussed the possibility of a virtual convention and thought there might be need for something less, but sooner. This committee is willing to plan and deliver a 1-day virtual Maryland A.A. Unity Conference sometime in 2021.  Although this will not be “the State Convention” per se, our committee could work as an ad hoc entity, serving at the pleasure of the Chair.

**2021 Mini-Conference**: Kurt W. reported that the 2021 Mini-Conference planning is underway. The committee, which meets month, consists of Frank M., Jessica W., Cynthia T., Mary M., Shauna L., Linda J., and Kurt W. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of these members. There have been four meetings to date. We may increase the frequency, as we get closer to the event. Linda has taken the lead regarding obtaining a speaker from GSO,

The Mini-Conference will be held April 10, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. At this point, modeling GSO, we plan on it being a virtual event, leaving open the slim possibility of a live event. At the last meeting in November, we focused on our communication plan, how we get the word out and encourage members to join us. The old method of printing thousands of flyers and distributing them may not be enough these days. Some of the things we discussed include: Flyer – One that pops out, with motion graphics suitable for our digital age. Maybe we can include features such as a button to automatically add it to people’s calendars. We also plan on a version suitable for printing. Word of Mouth at Meetings – Catchphrase such as “Come help prepare our Delegate”. Emails – Lively and colorful, with a personal invitation to join us and a request to forward the email to others. Also, a reminder the day before. MGS Website – Login information on the front page, easily accessible. IGLC Call – Kurt is scheduled to be the guest on the call on March 1st. Partnering with Intergroup when trying to get the word out about events is invaluable. And we may have a little surprise in the works. The next committee meeting is scheduled virtually for Monday evening, December 21, 2020.

**Policies and Procedures:** Chair Linda J. reported she attended the virtual Eastern Regional Forum and registered for the Western Regional Forum to be held later this month. For numerous months, Linda has been attempting to build the P & P Committee and several folks have declined the opportunity to serve. If you would like to discuss serving on this committee, please reach out to Linda J.

**Treatment**: Chair Frank M. reported the Treatment Committee met with the Intergroup Liaison Committee and received input as it evaluated Bridging the Gap and prepared a report to send to GSO based on input from August's sharing session, DCMs, and Intergroup reps and Bridging the Gap chairs. This is the first step in the preparation of a Workbook, Guidelines, and other service pieces the Conference will be working on for Bridging the Gap. Baltimore Intergroup has started a virtual meeting on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. for any hospital, detox, institution, or treatment center to attend virtually. This is privacy, HIIPA protected, where the patients and clients can see the speakers, but the speakers cannot see them. With COVID numbers spiking, any relaxation at treatment centers is over and most if not, all are locked down. Have reached out to see if any wanted old Grapevines, but at this point no takers. They are having their first Area wide get together of all those involved in Bridging the Gap in Area 29. It will be held virtually on January 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A notice has been sent to all DCMs and to Kathi K.to distribute to the Intergroups. Will also be sent out in the Area Chair’s weekly Area 29 Update email.

**Technology:** Chair Tom H. reported things are status quo. Doing what they can to keep the emails running.

**Workshop**: Chair Mike H. reported members keep coming up with good ideas for workshops and Mike is doing everything he can to help them. Thanked Lori M. for getting the flyer out in the weekly Area 29 Updater emails. Looks forward to working with the MD State Convention Committee on a 1-day virtual Maryland A.A. Unity Conference sometime in 2021.

**Registrar:** Jeanine W. reported that MyPortal 2.0 will now be called “Our Connection” and is being rolled out in mid-December. She will attend a virtual training on December 15, 2020 and is formulating questions for this event. If you have any questions, you can forward them to Jeanine W. The Records Department has been sending weekly updates and it appears that they are getting caught up with their entries. If your District is electing a new DCM and Alternate, please be sure to submit your changes directly to AAWS and send a copy to MGS at registrar@marylandaa.org. We are still not able to register virtual only meetings with GSO.

**DCM Reports:**

**District 1, 3, & 4:** No reports.

**District 6:**  DCMNancy H. reported that the District will be meeting virtually into 2021. Currently, 12 of their 19 groups are meeting in-person inside; 3 meet exclusively virtual; 1 as a hybrid; and 3 meeting are temporarily closed due to COVID-19. They are continuing to promote the wearing of masks, but group practices vary. Some in-person meetings do not require mask. Several groups have adopted protocols for meetings that follow CDC guidelines.

**District 7: New** DCM Mary M. reported that the District meets virtually. Have 28 groups, 81 meetings that include 7 Spanish-speaking meetings. BTG discussion at last District meeting and 2 got volunteers to help the District BTG chair. Developing a workshop on the 3rd Step for March. The Alano Club shut down w/much consternation. They have reopened for in-person meetings with strict 10-person limit. The 11th person will be not be allowed in. Hosting a virtual Alcathon for Christmas Day and New Year’s Day at Alano Club

**District 9**: No report.

**District 10:** Bernie P., GSR reported that at their December District meeting, Charles L, DCM resigned. Bernie P. asked if they could have a 10-minute breakout meeting during the break to discuss where the District is going to do moving forward. Next District meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2021.

**District 11 & 14:** No reports

**District 15:**  DCMTyler J. reported that the District currently has 19 of its 22 registered meetings are active either virtually or in-person. The majority is virtual as the winter weather is forcing outdoor meetings back into the digital space. 3 meetings have been inactive since COVID-19 shutdown They currently have an Outreach Committee and have talked about the additions of other committees, such as Intergroup Liaison. One of their groups, Shalom, which meets virtually on Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. has started a new policy of weekly “Secretary Rotation” to get newer members and members whose homegroup jobs are no longer needed, a chance to be of service. They are hosting an upcoming “Fourth Step” workshop on January 23, 2021 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. This will be a continuation of our Local Legacies Workshop Series, which four local old-timers sharing the experience strength and hope on the steps followed by a question-and-answer session.

**District 17:** No Report.

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**District 18**: DCM Kathleen W. reported the District meets virtually. They have provided Jeanine W., Area Register with an update meeting and contact list. They currently have two hybrid meetings. The remainders of the meeting are either virtually or suspended. Hosting a workshop, “Making Time for God Thru Service on December 13, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Have a speaker from Dallas, TX and Miami, FL. They will also be hosting a workshop “Two Way Prayer” 11 Step workshop with Father Bill on January 24, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Hosting a virtual Alcathon on Christmas Eve from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Christmas day form 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Talking to Groups about what services they can do to carry the message during COVID-19. Created and sent out to GSRs, a new digital newcomer information sheet that is in a pdf form that can be sent out to newcomers during virtual meetings. Considering purchasing 5 Grapevine subscriptions to be sent to local institution.

**District 19:** DCMJenna F. reported the District meets virtually. District 19 is hosting a New Year’s Eve Alcathon that was put together by their amazing Workshop Committee. We will host 45-minute AA meetings every hour on the hour from 4pm to 11pm with the last meeting starting just after we celebrate the New Year at 12:00 a.m.

**District 28:** DCM Jean B. reported that the District meets virtually. Several Groups who were meeting live have gone back to virtual meetings because of COVID-19 restrictions. The District Outreach Committee met in November and wrote a script on the purpose of GSR’s & the District that they are sharing at meetings they attend. They had additional discussions on having a live Alcathon on Christmas day. The vote was against doing a live meeting for safety reasons. There was then a suggestion to do something virtually but that also was voted down. Jeff H. spoke at our meeting and gave an overview of the CARC and agenda item process to prepare the GSR’s for the assembly.

**District 30, 31, & 32:** No reports

**District 33:** DCM Misty L. reported that District 33 meets once a month; no set date but is usually call a week in advance.

About 4% of the 44 meetings in the District consistently participate in the meetings. The District has approximately 12 in-person meetings; some of those are outdoors, no news on if they have moved indoors. The remainder is indoors, no word on if they have stopped. They continue to discuss how we reach out to those in need, and how we offer AA to folks in this virtual, difficult time. The Conversation normally creates great ideas They will be continuing to pursue getting a webpage for District, in the hope that it will serve to further inform groups who do not have anyone in the GS service structure. This is Misty’s last report as DCM for District 33, and they have a member stepping into this role. Misty stated has been a pleasure to be of service to Area 29, and District 33.

**District 34:**  No report.

**District 35:** DCM Jeanine W. reported that they held their elections at the December District meeting and all officers position have been filled. This is Jeanine’s last DCM report as she will be rotating and serving as the Area 29 Registrar. Jeanine stated that the DCM service position has been a great opportunity for spiritual growth, and she is forever grateful.

**District 36:** DCM Brandi D. reported the District meets virtually. Of their 37 register meetings; 4 are virtual, 1 hybrid, 13 are in-person, and 18 remain closed. District 36 is hosting a 24-hour virtual Christmas Alcothon from 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve to 9:00 p.m. Christmas day. They share during the District meeting what is working and what is not as it pertains to safety and protect members during the pandemic. Kurt W. will be visiting District 36 on January 12, 2021 to talk about the CARC process.

**District 37, 38 & 39:** No reports.

**District 40:** DCM Debbie P. reported they have 40 groups. 7 are meeting in-person, 1 hybrid and the balance are virtual. Started a new Outreach Committee to try to engage more GSR participation through education Working on putting together a GSR workshop to help explain the importance of GSRs and their role in A.A. service.

**District 41**: Craig T., Area Secretary reported for DCM Grace H. in her absence. The December District Meeting was cancelled. The next District Meeting will be in January 2021 and will be the first District meeting coordinated and conducted by your incoming District Officers. In an email sent out on December 2nd, Grace H. stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve as DCM, the District and Alcoholics Anonymous.  She acknowledged the new District 41 Officers:

DCM, Mike F., Alternate DCM, Miki W., Secretary, Logan A., and Treasurer, John W., Grace also personally thanked each of the Area 29, Panel 70 Officers as well the Area Registrar and our immediate Past Delegate Don B. and recommended that the new District Officers work with them and benefit from their knowledge and guidance that they provide as a service resource. Grace H. will continue to be a supportive during the rotation as her service as your DCM ends and Mike F. service begins.

**District 42**: DCM Diane F. reported that new Alternate GSR for Bowie Friday Night Speakers meeting, Craig W. attended the District meeting. District 42 plans for those that attend, to invite one other person to attend the next District meeting. Trying to widem the net of service. Treatment Committee sent 4 requests from Tranquility Woods for temporary contacts within Bridging the Gap to Frank M.  No group changes. The Odenton Thursday night is a hybrid meeting. Webmaster did update our District website so members can view the full page for easier reading.  We are still talking of updating the website. Asking groups what they considering to be important to have on the homepage. Grapevine Committee is working with our groups to get the message out about sharing your Grapevines “Extend Your Hand” campaign.

**District 46:** No report.

**Break at 11:33 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 11:43 a.m. with 50 members attending the meetings.**

***SESSION THREE***

**New Business:**

**Addition of a 5th CARC: *Motion made by Kurt W., Area 29, Panel; 70 Alternate Delegate and Mini Conference Chair: The Area 29 Committee recommends to the Area 29 Assembly that Area 29 implement on a one-year trial basis, a 5th CARC Meeting to be comprised primary of Area service Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs which would then review Conference Agenda Items that would be assigned to them.*** The Motion was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. Coming from the Area Committee, so it does not require a second.*Kurt W. provided background information pertaining to the motion.* ***Following discussion, a voting poll was launch with 38 eligible voters, 38 for, 0 opposed. The Motion carried unanimously.***

**MGS Proposed 2021 Budget:** ***Motion made by Jim Reed, Area 29 Finance Chair: To accept the MGS Proposed 2021 Budget.*** The MGS 2021 Proposed Budget was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020.Coming from the Area Committee, so it does not require a second.*Jim R. provided background information pertaining to the motion*. ***Following discussion, a voting pole was launched with 38 eligible voters, 33 for 1 opposed. Minority Opinion, Tom H. stated that he voted no because of the typing error in the “Software purchases/upgrades” line item of the technology budget that was not corrected to $300.00 but accepted as presented at $399.00. The motion carried with substantial unanimity.***

**2021 Agenda Item: Develop the Fifth Edition Big Book:** ***Motion made by Morgan J. on behalf of CARC II: The Area 29 Committee recommends to the Area 29 Assembly to consider the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, bringing a progress report to the 2022 Conference; keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is".*** The Motion was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. Coming from the Area Committee, so it does not require a second. *Morgan J. provided background information pertaining to the motion.* ***Following discussion. A voting poll was launch with 38 eligible voters, 31 for, 3 opposed. No Minority Opinion. Motion carried with substantial unanimity.***

**Adding stories to “Experience, Strength and Hope”: *Motion made by Morgan J. on behalf of CARC II: The Area 29 Committee recommends to the Area 29 Assembly to consider adding the stories dropped from the First, Second, Third and Fourth Editions of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous To the publication “Experience Strength and Hope”. (Note: use of any Fourth Edition stories would be contingent on the resolution of the question regarding the possible development of a Fifth Edition)*** The Motion was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. Coming from the Area Committee so it does not require a second.*Morgan J. provided background information pertaining to the motion.* ***Following discussion, a voting poll was launch with 39 eligible voters* 34 for, 0 opposed. *The Motion carried unanimously.***

**Break at 12:30 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m. with 45 members attending the meeting.**

**SESSION FOUR**

**71st General Service Conference Proposed Agenda Item by Area 29:** Cynthia T., Area 29 Panel 70 Delegate gave the background of why the motion is coming to the floor of the Committee. ***Motion made by Frank M.: The Area 29 Committee recommends to the Area 29 Assembly that Area 29, Maryland adopts this agenda item to request a procedure be drafted to appeal a ruling by the Conference Chair.  This procedure may include that the Chair may provide an explanation as to such ruling and the process for challenging a ruling of the Chair as defined in Robert's Rules of Order.*** The Motion was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. Coming from the Area Committee so it does not require a second.Frank M. reviewed the document “71st General Service Conference Proposed Agenda Item by Area 29”. ***Following discussion, a voting poll was launch with 35 eligible voters, 29 for, 3 opposed. No Minority Opinion. Motion carried with substantial unanimity.***

**Recommendation to Update the Purpose of the Current Conference Charter: *Motion made by Don B., Area 29 Panel 68 Past Delegate:*** ***The Area 29 Committee recommends to the Area 29 Assembly that Area 29 support the motion approved by the Area Committee of Area 44 (Northern New Jersey) to Update paragraph 1, the Purpose, of the Current Conference Charter (United States and Canada) to include the Concepts in addition to the Steps and Traditions as the Legacies for which the General Service Conference serves as guardian. The revised text of the Purpose paragraph would read “The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous…”*** The Motion was transmitted to the Assembly by email on November 30, 2020. Coming from the Area Committee so it does not require a second.*Don B. provided background information pertaining to the motion.* ***Following discussion, a voting poll was launch with 34 eligible voters, 19 for, 12 opposed. Minority Opinion. Don B. stated*** ***that the people that spoken in opposition of this proposal all refer to the process, saying that we were not allowing the fellowship and members in our Area to have a say in it. This is not completely true because it was something that was brought before the Area Committee and before the Area Assembly. Therefore, our DCMs and GSRs had the opportunity to take the information back to see what the Group thought about it and that is the process that we use in Alcoholics Anonymous to develop a group conscience. It is not just through the CARC process. Kurt W noted that our By-laws state a quorum is defined, as “At any Area Assembly, the presence in person of a majority of the registered members of the corporation on that day shall constitute a quorum for all votes”. If proposal did not follow one specified path to get here, once it is here, the people that are here are the quorum. The Motion failed.***

**Virtual ask it Basket:**

**David R. asked the body to consider as we move into 2021, how we plan to use the money in the operating account to help Alcoholics keeping in mind the 7th Tradition long form.**

**Jessica W., Accessibilities Chair asked that during this pandemic and the Holiday Season that we remember to reach out to people you have not seen in a while and others in the program as this is a very tough time of the year for many.**

**Kathleen W. DCM District 18. The situation that just happened with Don B’s proposal, how can it get streamlined so it does not happen again. If something does come up that is a good idea, not be stopped because it did not go through the proper procedure. Is CARC in charge of everything? Is it written in the by-laws the way this is supposed to be presented? Lori M. stated that she has decided to pass on to Policies and Procedures around bringing agenda items to the Area Committee and Area Assembly or do we want to keep them where they are right now.” The Policy and Procedure Committee would not have the authority to decide, they could bring proposals to the Committee and Assembly for them to decide how they want to handle this. It is time for the body to make this decision as we move into 2021 CARC process.**

***A motion to adjourn was made by Jenna F. and seconded by Brandi D. The Motion to close carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Craig T.

Area 29, Panel 70 Secretary