

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 68

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Assembly met on December 7, 2019 in District 31, at the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church located at 611 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Severna Park, MD. District 31 hosted the meeting. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 9:05 am with the Serenity Prayer.

SESSION ONE

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Lori M. thanked District 31, George and others for hosting the meeting and went over the housekeeping details.

Welcome New GSRs & DCMs

Douglas GSR Ext Discussion	Dave M., incoming DCM D20
Karen GSR Women's Attitude of Gratitude	Andy M., incoming Alternate DCM D37
Charlie GSR Red House Morning Group	Diane F., incoming DCM D42
Lisa GSR Eldersburg Into Action	Nancy H., incoming DCM D6
Mike GSR Timonium Group (Lutherville)	Charles L., incoming DCM D10
Rich P., GSR Fellowship Hall	Debby P., incoming DCM D40

Chair Report: Honored and privileged to be serving as the MGS Area Chair for the next two years. Been busy trying to identify Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, having a hard time, all are not filled. If you know someone who may want to step into area service, please contact me. Don't let the number of meetings/events hold you back from serving. We are not a committee of one. There are ways to share the responsibilities.

Calendar for events held at Severna Park are locked in. Locations to be determined for other events so please sign up. Explained what the host committee responsibilities are. It was noted that the new Host Committee Check List is posted on the website.

Our next Planning & Area Committee Meeting has been combined and will be held on February 15, 2020 at Severna Park United Methodist Church located at 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD.

Secretary Report: Dawn H. reported that October Area Assembly minutes was on the table. A summary of the October 2019 Area Assembly Minutes were presented.

Motion to accept the Minutes was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report: Birk S. reported as of November 30, 2019, account balances were: Operating Account: \$31,736.30. Savings Account: \$12,822.85 (Prudent Reserve: \$10,000 & Special Savings for 2020 International Convention: \$2,822.85). We have additional assets of: Literature: \$5,728.73 & Grapevine: \$4,841.14.

Revenue: Group Contributions as of November 30, 2019 were \$48,862.89. Other income (i.e. 7th Traditions basket, lunch donations, etc.) total \$7,825.64, for a total income of \$56,688.53.

Expenses: Through November 30, 2019, we have paid out a total of \$46,228.95.

A note about taxes – This year we found it necessary to change our accounting firms for our federal and state non-profit tax filings. During this process we discovered a number of errors that needed to be corrected in order for us to maintain our good standing with both the IRS and the State of Maryland. The cost for those services was \$3000.00, which included a 45% discount as a professional courtesy from the accounting firm (the total bill was over \$5400). That bill was paid on December 4th, so the expenditure is not included in the total expenses listed above. Now that these irregularities have been corrected, we should not have these issues again and we are expecting our tax preparation fees to be \$750 per year, which matches our budgeted amount.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, it has been a pleasure to act as your Treasurer for the past 18 months and I look forward to continuing my service as my home group's General Service Representative.

Following a "Point of information" by Linda J., President of the Board of Directors, this looks like the cost of doing business but it is not. It is the cost to edify. All went through the board. This was the cost to clean up things that were not done properly. Thank you Birk and we are grateful to have a new accounting firm to manage as we move forward.

Motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was unanimously approved

Alternate Delegate Report: Cynthia T. in the short period of time since we last met, I was privileged to facilitate the elections for District 40, Panel 70 on the 18th. I am happy to welcome Debbie as the new DCM. On the 23rd, I was asked to share my experience, strength and service at the Hagerstown Intergroup gratitude breakfast. On the 26th, I was co-pilot for our past Delegate Nancy B. to help facilitate District 9 elections. Biggest part of my

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role is the responsibility for the CARC process. This afternoon we will be presenting recommendations from the CARCs approved by the Area Committee to take the beginning steps of the next cycle. Five different CARC agenda items to review today, it will take some time but there are really good, meaty items.

Delegate Report: Don B. provided a slideshow with his Delegate report. During today's final Area Assembly of Panel 68, we focus on the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. **General Service Board News:** Updated Strategic Plan is available, ask your DCM for a copy. **General Service Conference:** December 9 is deadline to submit ideas to delegate@marylandaa.org for ideas on the 2021 GSC theme & workshop topics. **A.A. World Service Inc. News:** The new GSO Communication Services launched in November and is focused on projects for new website design, meeting guide app, and more. About half of the 65,000 projected attendees have registered for the July 2-5, 2020 International Conference being held in Detroit, MI. **AA Grapevine and La Vina News:** They need your support today! Subscribe. **Regional & National News:** NERAASA 2020, Feb 21-23, Nashua, NH; 62nc ICYPAA Sep 3-6 New Orleans, LA. Delegate's detailed report with additional information and **Events Around Area 29** can be found in Delegate's Corner on Marylandaa.org. Don finished by taking questions from the Assembly.

DCM Reports: (CARC 1 & 2)

Districts 1, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 36, 37, 38, & 46 No Reports

District 6: Nancy H., incoming DCM reported they are having a History Workshop on Saturday, January 25 in Owensville, MD at the burial sites of Fitz Mayo and Jim Burwell, two of our founding fathers of AA. There will be a PowerPoint presentation by Morgan J., MGS Archivist, on History of Maryland AA. The workshop is being held 10AM to 1:30PM.

District 22: Shannon E., DCM, we just held out District elections, we have a new DCM, Alt DCM, and Treasurer. Need a secretary. Step 4 Workshop next weekend 12/15. Two new GSRs are with us today.

District 31: George N., DCM we held our annual crab feast 10/16 in the Retelle Room – Naval Annex. Free Meditation Workshop November 25. We will host the MGS Area Meeting on December 7th at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. Future event on Saint Patrick's Day event held at the bookstore. At our last meeting we talked about elections and rotations. We are working to update our group contact list. Need Alt. DCM.

District 35: Jeanine W., DCM our last meeting on December 5 had 8 GSRs and 3 Visitors in attendance. We are planning a 4th step workshop for April (date TBD) and a 6 & 7 Step Workshop to be held in October 2020. Also serves the CARC 2 leaders see her so she can get contact information.

District 42: Terry Z., DCM reported the Workshop on Recovery Through the 12 & 12 had 30 + in attendance, speaker April D. Continue to work on website refresh identifying target audience and how best website can serve the District. Elections results from November Meetings: Diane F. DCM; Mark S. Alt DCM; Christine B. Secretary; Morgan J. Treasurer. Thanks to Linda for moderating elections.

Committee Reports

Archivist: Morgan J. reported they are presenting a History Workshop on Saturday, January 25 in Owensville, MD, District 6. A presentation with Mike M. covering points of A.A. History and Morgan discussing A.A. History in Maryland. The workshop is being held 10AM to 1:30PM.

Audio: Patrick M., Chair stated that if you are looking for a service position and want to learn how to do audio, come see me. Important job, everything needs to be recorded.

P&P: Nancy B., Chair reported that the members of the Policies and Procedures Committee are in the process of reviewing and completing the updates for the January 2020 edition of the MGS Handbook. All Area Officers and Service Committee Chairs reviewed their Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities page in the June 2019 MGS Handbook and provided updates if they wanted any. It should be noted that all requests for changes are minor corrections to current procedure and will not require Assembly approval. It is our plan to have the Handbook printed and available the first meeting in 2020, scheduled for 2/15

Accessibilities: Mary M., Co-Chair. Robert G. from District 4 in Eastern, MA Area 30 and Barb C. Delegate Panel 69 Area 47 Central NY contacted me to help address accessibilities issues to include seating requests at meetings for wheelchairs. In Howard County in District 7, we posted all the questions on the Accessibilities Checklist and all the groups answered the question. You can go to HowardCOAA.org under find a meeting and

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you will see how the groups responded to each question. Wonderful tool but not sure if the area meetings guide or intergroups can add this information. Jessica W. is our incoming Chair.

Corrections: Chuck R., Chair stated the body sent him to the National Correction Convention in Houston. Learned a lot. Talked to a lot of people take meetings into San Quentin, and the largest maximum-security prisons Angola. Would like to work with Bridging the Gap to get something going with prisons.

CPC: Kurt W., Chair reported when dealing with professionals, the number 1 question is nearly always, “Do you have directories?” Since it is logistically very difficult to keep current printed directories in stock for all 10 Intergroups, we typically show them the Meeting Guide App for their phone, which is very well received. Since GSO has no service pieces suitable for handing out, I asked for, and received, permission to use the registered trademark to have some small cards printed out that can be distributed to professionals, and they can pass along to others. I have a few copies available if anyone wants one or a few.

Grapevine: Jenna F., interim Chair service with Grapevine has provided many opportunities to carry on what has been provided to me. Grapevine is the best possible service position to hold.

Intergroup: Mike Y., Chair provided a reported that they held the regular monthly conference calls on December 2, 2019. Guest speakers were Panel 68 Delegate Don B. and Panel 68 Alternate Delegate and Panel 70 Delegate-elect Cynthia T. Both shared experiences in their respective trusted servant roles. We have forwarded delegate emails to IGLC distribution, which included: No FNV ... Limited Registrations Capabilities // Additional Details Regarding GSO's Level of Effort; Grapevine News; Release-ASL Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions; General Service Board Strategic Plan; Updated URL - LinkedIn Page - Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc.; and Cooperating with Intergroup. We have attended West Central Intergroup Meeting. The Committee has the following plans for the upcoming month: Turn over materials to Panel 70 committee chair with suggestion the speaker for January 6 be Panel 70 MGS chair Lori M. to speak on subject of her choice. Attend Intergroup Council meetings around the area.

Literature: George S., Co Chair no report but really appreciate what Jenna and Mike Y. share about service. Service as the Literature Co-Chair has been a wonderful experience.

MarGenSer: Meryl T., Chair, Margenser is a work in progress. We converted from printed to electronic version for an annual cost savings of \$4K. I would like to publish a “Year in MarGenSer”. Good ways for committees to communicate with our members. Ask for articles by 12/15/19 for publish by 12/20/19.

New Business

Proposed 2020 Budget

Area Chair Lori M. reminded the Assembly that this motion comes recommended from the Area Committee so it does not require a second. This is a straight up and down vote. No single line item changes. We have a total of 62 eligible voters – passage of this motion required a 2/3 majority or 41 votes.

Motion: Motion to Approve the 2020 Proposed Budget as presented by the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Chair Jim R. reviewed the details of the 2020 Area 29 Proposed Budget that was approved by the Area Committee and recommended to the Area Assembly. He reviewed the projected revenue for 2020, the Panel 70 Officers expenses for 2020, Panel 70 Committee expenses for 2020, non-Committee expenses for 2020, where we will be at the end of 2019, total revenue expenses and what our net proposal is for the close of 2020 and finally a sheet with notes. This budget for 2020 increases the mileage reimbursement from \$.25 per mile to \$.35 per mile, which is just below average for other non-profits and other Areas.

Following discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

SESSION TWO

DCM Reports: (CARC 4)

District 17 No Report

District 7: incoming DCM Mary M. current Alt DCM reported we had 200 people in attendance at our Gratitude Breakfast with a speaker from New Jersey, Don B. our Delegate was in attendance.

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District 9: John H., DCM thanks Nancy B. and Cynthia T. for moderating our District officer elections. We have a holiday party December 15. Workshop coming up January 25 – not ask what your District can do for you but what you can do for your District.

District 20: Dave M., incoming DCM reported we held our elections for District 20 officers. Welcome to Treasurer, Chris R. and Secretary, Danny S. Alt. DCM position is still open.

District 40: Brigitte F., DCM we have approximately 37 groups; we have 24 GSRs now, anywhere from 15-18 come to the District meeting. We have 3 new, 1 alt GSRs at the October meeting. Elections Debbie P. is the incoming DCM. I will remain a member of the finance committee. December meeting, we will do an end of term overview and little party. Asking GSRs to bring along members of their homegroup. Will formally introduce our new officers. We have a new meeting at Ft. Detrick and will continue our five subscriptions of Grapevine to Roxbury Correctional Institution.

District 41: Grace H., provided December 2019 DCM Report - We have 23 registered groups in District 41, we have two newly registered groups with 17 active GSRs.

The District met on Wednesday, December 4th and the following items were discussed and/or actions taken: The District is in the planning stages of a Winter/Spring workshop. Topic will be Anonymity Online. Outreach efforts continue. A small group of GSRs are working with our Alternate DCM to get to all registered groups to encourage electing a GSR, identify a Group Contact to keep communication channels open and to visit all meetings in the District that are not currently registered groups with GSO and encourage participation in the General Service structure. Public Information cooperation with West Central Intergroup continues. The District will be purchasing start up pamphlets for the racks D41 groups are sponsoring. All proposed Potential Agenda Items presented by the CARCs at the November Area Committee meeting, along with supporting background material, were distributed to GSRs and they continue to be encouraged to attend Area Assemblies and participate in the service structure. All press releases, and correspondence from GSO, especially regarding the migration to the new database for registrations of new GSRs and new Groups, have been shared with the District. The District will not have a January 2020 meeting due to it's falling on January 1st.

New Business

CARC Proposals

Cynthia T. stated we have five recommend agenda items. Don will prepare the documentation and forward any recommendations we approve today to the conference coordinator for recommendation to possibly be added to the conference agenda items in April. Because they are recommended from the Area Committee, the motion for approval is on the floor already and does not require a second.

Grace H., CARC 4 Leader: Area 29 Committee and CARC 4 present the following Accessibilities Agenda item, which was approved at the November 16th, 2019 Area 29 Committee Meeting. We are asking that the Assembly approve and ask our Delegate to forward to the conference coordinator for consideration the following motion.

Motion on the Floor: “Consider inviting members whose access to A.A. is challenged by a particular condition, disability or barrier to participate in the process of discussion, review, and implementation of actions, policies or procedures intended to overcome those barriers as members of focus groups, subcommittees, or the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment and Accessibilities/ Remote Communities Committee.”

Grace H. provided the background information.

There was no discussion. The Motion on the floor passed with one opposed. No Minority Opinion.

Grace H., CARC 4 Leader: Area 29 Committee and CARC 4 present the following Floor Action Agenda Item, which was approved at the November 16th, 2019 Area 29 Committee Meeting.

Motion on the floor: “Review the Floor Action Process to guard against circumvention of the Conference Process”.

Grace H. provided the background information. Linda J., current Board of Director Chair and past Panel, Area 29 Delegate was asked to provided overview of the floor actions process and why there is a concern from the prospective of someone that has attended the conference.

Following discussion, a friendly amendment was made that wording in the background information if passed would be “comes from Area 29 Assembly and not CARC 4 since other Area’s will not understand what a CARC is.

The Motion on the floor passed with two opposed. No Minority Opinion.

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Jeanine W., CARC 2 Leader: Area 29 Committee and CARC 2 present the following Service Piece Agenda Item, which was approved at the November 16th, Area 29 Committee Meeting. If it is not passed, maybe it can still be used at the Area 29 level.

Motion on the Floor: “Consider request to produce a Service Piece for GSR Participation.”

Jeanine W. provided background information and read an example of what their District is currently using.

Following discussion, the vote was 22 in favor, 24 opposed. Motion Does Not Carry. No Minority Opinion.

Break for Lunch, Meeting reconvened at 12:45.

Morgan J., Area 29 Archivist, Panel 50 Past Delegate: Area 29 Committee and CARC 2 presented the following Literature Agenda Item, which was approved at the November 16th, 2019 Area 29 Committee Meeting.

Motion on the Floor: “A definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985 be considered, with a possible working title of Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age” or A.A., The Next 30 Years”.

Morgan J. provided overview and background. We should document and publish our history before it's lost.

Following discussion, the motion passed with one opposed. No Minority Opinion.

Meryl T., MarGenSer Chair and CARC 2 member: Area 29 Committee and CARC 2 presented the following Anonymity Agenda Item, which was approved at the November 16th, 2019 Area 29 Committee Meeting.

Motion on the Floor: “To create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity. Highlighting anonymity can be a life or death issue. Specific education for current and future members about anonymity using social media is our responsibility”.

Meryl T. provides background information. Following discussion Don B made the following friendly amendment that we limit the motion to the first sentence. The second and third sentences are justification for the motion and can be the first lines immediately after the motion in the supporting material.

The Friendly amendment was accepted, and the Motion now reads: “To create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity”.

Following discussion, the motion passed with one opposed. Minority Opinion: I think we need to get to a point where we need to evaluate how many pamphlets, how many books we keep pushing General Service to publish.

DCM Reports (CARC 3)

District 3, 4, 14, 30, 33, & 34: No Reports,

District 10: Jessica W., outgoing DCM, Charles L. is the incoming DCM. Approx. 30 registered groups with 39 total meetings, with 5-7 active groups. We held District 10 elections and elected Charles L., DCM; Doug S., Alt. DCM; Brant K., Treasurer; & Jennifer D., Secretary. Holding officer transition meeting that afternoon.

District 11: Pete S., incoming DCM. Catherine T. Secretary, J.J. Alt. DCM. We had a great turnout.

District 15: Tyler J., DCM recently relit. Need to get a better handle how many active groups vs. GSRs. We've had three meetings with 10-12 GSRs. We have 3 GSRs in attendance here today. Planning a movie night. Also helping our neighboring Districts 19 with New Years Eve alcathon.

District 18: Kathi K., DCM outgoing, Micha is the incoming. Planning a Halloween dance in October. Passing on the baton with the rotation flash drive and meet later today where we will plan to 2020.

District 19: Jenna F. in coming DCM reported she is the incoming DCM, Doug M. Alt DCM, Mike D. Treasurer, and Peggy C. Secretary. This transition will all take place at our New Year's Eve Alcathon 4pm – 1am. Please join us. We have one new GSR – David R. from the Early Bird Group

District 28: Jeff H., DCM outgoing DCM, Jean B is incoming DCM. At our last meeting approved our 2020 Budget; confirmed structure of our Christmas Alcathon; discussed our Open Alt DCM Position and based on conversations between incoming and outgoing DCMs tabled any voting. We discussed Alternates need to be ready to assume full DCM role – District 28 had a DCM pass away. The outgoing and incoming DCMs want to be sure any GSRs interested truly understand what they are getting into. Planning a Christmas Alcathon December 25th 10AM – 9PM.

District 33: Misti L., DCM reported small but mighty district. Two new GSRs at tended today's meeting. Helping one of the groups in the northern section of the District put on a Safety Workshop.

Committee Reports:

Public Information: James W., Chair reported activities since September: Attended Howard County Recovery Walk at Ellicott City Assembly of God, 9/21/19; Attended Baltimore City Recovery Fair at Druid Hill Park 9/27/19;

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Co-hosted a table at MD/DC Treatment Medical Expo in Clarksville, MD 10/26/19; and attended Area Election Assembly 10/19/19.

Planned Activities: Prepare Literature Inventory and Rotation Flash Drive

For your groups and Districts: Please let the PI committee know if you are interested in distributing AA literature in your community or participating in community events to carry the message of AA. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. A special Thank you to John C. and Steve H. for participation on the Public Information Committee during this Panel.

Registrar Report: Ray T. reported the total attendance at the Area Committee of 71 and total votes 62 which consist of 5 Officers 5 votes, 4 Past Delegates 0 votes, 14 Committee Chairs 11 votes, 1 Co-Chair 1 vote, 16 DCMs 16 votes, 1 Alternate DCM 0 votes, 24 GSRs 24 votes, 2 Alternate GSRs 2 votes, and 5 visitor 0 votes. FNV has been closed, any changes or updates are being sent to GSO.

State Convention: David R., Chair reported that June 5 – 7 is right around the corner. Please take a flyer. Speaker invitations are out. Budget work is ongoing. Hedging towards slightly lower attendance due to International Convention the following month. Please join the committee. See me today if you'd like to help out.

Technology: Terry P., Chair reported the committee recently finished our migration of our MGS email to Office365 servers. We are completely on Office365. Officers and Committee Chairs can now sign in to Office365 with your email and password. All emails will be forwarded through Outlook. We can still get to older Outlook emails. We also have SharePoint capabilities. These are secure, safe and saved online. Cynthia T. asked if it would be possible to set up a hand on workshop for everybody to learn the system?

Workshop: Craig T., Chair. Like to thank everyone who participated at every level to assist the Workshop Committee. It has been a privilege to travel around Area 29 over the past two years and assist Intergroups, Districts and the Area Committee with putting on successful workshops to help carry the message of A.A. I would also like to personally thank the workshop committee members for their support and input on the committee as well. I have prepared a rotation notebook and a thumb drive of information for turnover to the next Workshop Committee Chair. Before I close this chapter of service work, I would like to inform you of the results of a survey that the Workshop Committee took during several Area meetings. We asked what topic members would like to hear about as possible mini workshops during the Area meeting and got the following results: Giving away what you have; Spirit of rotation; Service sponsorship; Concepts; Saying No in AA; Communication: Love & Tolerance; What is a CARC - how and why we should participate; How to prepare a CARC presentation; Carrying the message to Institutions, prisons, hospitals and treatment centers; Group and/or District inventory's – how frequent and who is in charge of implementation of changes. Hope we can address these topics in Panel 70.

Ask It Basket: What specifically is a service piece? Conference approved literature that is pamphlets, books booklet and videos that has gone through the General Service Conference process. Takes a lot to have full Conference approval. A service piece is something there is an expressed need for from the fellowship but does not go through the Conference process and I produced by the publishing department of the General Service Office or one of the different assignments at the General Service Office or possibly Grapevine. Good example two page sheet called "Safety and AA and Our Common Welfare". There was a need to state AA position and it could not wait to go through the Conference process so the service piece was produced.

A motion to adjourn was made and accepted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully prepared by,
Dawn H.
MGS Panel 68 Secretary