

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 72

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly met in a hybrid format on October 15, 2022. The meeting was held at Severna Park United Methodist Church. The room opened at 8:00 a.m. and the virtual doors opened at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Brigitte F. opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. 36 members were in attendance in the physical room and 18 members were in the virtual room.

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Brigitte F. welcomed everyone to the hybrid October 15, 2022, Area Assembly Meeting and reviewed who qualified as a voting member of the Area Assembly. Brigitte thanked District 42 for hosting. She welcomed our guest Area Inventory facilitator, Russell R., Area 13 Delegate. New GSRs and DCMs were asked to introduce themselves and then new Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs were invited to introduce themselves. All officer's reports that do not need a vote will be suspended.

Secretary's Report: Kathleen W. provided a summary of the August 13, 2022, Area Assembly Minutes, which were transmitted to the Assembly by email on October 5, 2022.

Motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Bob C. and seconded by Beverly M. The Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Jean B. reported as of September 30, 2022, account balances are:

Operating Account: \$ 44,790.89 Special Savings for International Convention: \$ 3,532.02

Savings Account: \$20,003.21.

We have additional assets of: Literature: \$5,728.73 & Grapevine: \$4,477.88

Revenue:

Group Contributions as of September 30, 2022, are \$29,617.18. Individual Contributions as of September 30 are \$243.64.

Other income (i.e., 7th Tradition's basket, lunch donations, etc.) total \$6,823.50.

Interest income totals: \$1.50 Total Revenue \$36,685.82, which is 103% of our budgeted revenue for 2022.

Expenses:

Through September 30, 2022, we have paid out a total of \$29,730.83, which is 44% of our budgeted expenses this year.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Lynn and seconded by Anne. The Motion carried unanimously.

Brigitte F. called for a stretch break at 10:07 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Brigitte F. asked for a motion to be presented:

Motion to suspend regular business for Third Legacy Vote for Northeast Regional Trustee and Area 29 Inventory

The Motion was made by Terry P. and seconded by Kathleen W. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

Third Legacy Vote for Northeast Regional Trustees candidate for Area 29 conducted by Kurt W., Delegate: Kurt W., Delegate explained A.A.'s Third Legacy Voting Procedure. The elected candidate from today will be nominated for the General Service Board. There could be 18 possible candidates from the Northeast region which will be reviewed for eligibility, and one will be selected in a nominating session by the Northeast Region Delegates and approved at the 73rd General Service Conference. Kurt W., Delegate then reviewed the qualifications and duties of the Northeast Regional Trustee service position.

The 3 candidates were Don B., Panel 68 Delegate, Linda J., Panel 66 Delegate and Tom R., Panel 58 Delegate. Each candidate was allowed 2 minutes at the microphone to speak about their qualifications. The candidate's resumes were posted online and handed out to the assembly for review.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 72

CONFIDENTIAL

The Registrar's count of eligible voters was 36 in the physical room and 18 online. 54 total eligible voting members.

Ballot 1: Don B. – 15 votes

Linda J. – 33 votes

Tom R. – 6 votes

No candidate has 2/3 majority

The Registrar's count of eligible voters was 36 in the physical room and 19 online. 55 total eligible voting members.

Ballot 2: Don B. – 10 votes

Linda J. – 42 votes

Tom R. – 3 votes

Linda J. is elected with 2/3 majority vote

10:30 a.m. Area 29 Biennial Inventory: Facilitated by Russel R., Area 13 Delegate

The assembly participants were divided into small groups and assigned questions. They were given approximately 20 mins for each question and asked to assign a recording secretary for each group. The Assembly reconvened to report their findings and recommendations.

Question 1: Are we fulfilling the purpose of the Area Committee and Assembly, as described in the AA Service Manual and our MGS Handbook? If not, how so?

- Add 15 mins about the Concepts
- Need better participation
- GSR/DCM workshops

Question 2: Is there more we could be doing to attract qualified people into Area leadership positions? Ideas for doing so?

- Assign service sponsor/mentor to new GSRs
- Workshops on Traditions/Concepts
- DCMs go to meetings without GSRs to talk about service

Question 3: The Hybrid meeting model has helped increase participation in Area Committee and Assembly meetings. Assuming we continue to offer it as a permanent part of our business meetings, discuss making a significant investment in technology to meet this objective.

- Purchase needed equipment for the area to better facilitate hybrid meetings
- Provide input to local meetings to provide hybrid technology

Question 4: Are the Area meetings conducted effectively as far as time management and opportunity for as many people as possible to participate? If not, what would you change and why?

- Outreach to get more participation
- Do not read reports at the Area meetings
- Keep hybrid format

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 72

CONFIDENTIAL

Question 5: Would you like to see more sharing sessions focused on specific topics that can support DCMS and GSRs in their work for their groups and districts? Suggest ideas for topics. Are there other additional activities the Area can engage in to help support your service positions?

- Use hybrid format for GSR/DCM orientations
- Regular round table sessions
- Presentation on CARC

Question 6: The Area has several standing committees. Discuss their effectiveness. If improvements are needed, what are suggestions for doing so?

- Assign DCMs to Area Committees
- Service fairs/ Committees set up tables at assemblies 2 times a year
- Committees communicate better with DCMs and GSRs

Lunch Break called by Brigitte F. at 11:50 a.m. Meeting reconvened 12:40 p.m.

The Assembly participants continued the inventory procedure with Area 29 Inventory Questions 7-12.

Question 7: How can the Area better promote service opportunities?

- Online page for open service positions
- Active Districts sponsor struggling or new Districts
- Service fair

Question 8: Are emails the best way to communicate among ourselves? Are there other ways to communicate effectively that we should explore?

- Group messaging format/Google Teams or Microsoft 365 for DCMs
- Update website
- Newsletter

Question 9: Is the Area doing enough to promote the value of Service Sponsors? If not, how can we improve this effort?

- Ask at Assemblies if anyone is willing to be a service sponsor
- Provide a flyer of what a service sponsor provides and the benefits
- Do service manual studies/Tradition and Concept studies

Question 10: At the Pre-Inventory exercise in August, challenges concerning navigating, finding updated information and other issues with our Area website were mentioned. Discuss ways to improve this effort.

- Add GSR page to the website
- Better navigation
- Make funds available for update/revamp

Question 11: The Area has lost a lot of institutional knowledge provided by past members who have stepped away. What are some things we could do to re-engage past trusted servants?

- Reach out and ask questions, guidance, and help
- Ask them to mentor/sponsor

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 72

CONFIDENTIAL

- Have a contact list available

Question 12: The Area Newsletter (The Margenser) stopped being produced a few years ago. Does the Area need a newsletter? Would you read it and/or contribute to it?

- Restart the newsletter in printed/digital copies
- Content on service, experience/strength/hope, education on service triangle/traditions/concepts
- Helpful to communicate to the Area

Ask It Basket: None

A Motion to adjourn made by Jeanine W. and passed unanimously followed by the Responsibility Statement at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen W.

Area 29, Panel 72 Secretary