

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Area Committee Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2020

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Area Committee Meeting – January 4, 2020

1. OPENING

Area Chairperson, James O'D. opened the meeting at 9.52 am. James announced *the passing of Fr. Peter W. who passed away on January 1, 2020. He was 92 years old, he had 58 years and 11 months of sobriety; a long-time member of the Oakville Group. He was a Panel 17 (1967-68) Area 83 Delegate and was the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee from 1975-1978 (serving 4 years).*

This was followed by a moment of silence and then by the serenity prayer.

Serenity Prayer read by Dianne M. Self-Support, District 14; 12 Concepts (Short Form) read by Jamie B. – District 62, Parkwood Hills Group.

Welcome to Quinte West. It's great to see everyone here today. This is our fourth Area Committee meeting of the 2019-2020 term. This is your meeting and it is an opportunity for you to share what's happening in your Districts. The Area committee is where recommendations to the Assembly are discussed and formulated and where tasks assigned by the Assembly are carried out. It is where your questions are answered, and concerns addressed. Please feel free to voice any concerns or questions you may have. There may be someone in the room who has the same question and it helps to share. It is important for all of us to remember our First Tradition - "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity". We are here to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous remains unified and strong in Area 83 Eastern Ontario International. Our personal recovery, as well as the recovery of the still suffering Alcoholic, depends upon it.

When someone is speaking, please do not speak to those around you. Let's be courteous to all who give reports and during motion discussion

Some reminders

This is a non-smoking facility; this includes e-cigarettes and vaping. A break will be called sometime around 11:00 AM and again in the afternoon. Lunch is not shown as an agenda item, but we will break around noon. Please turn off your cell phones or anything else that might interrupt the meeting. Also, please be considerate of those with perfume allergies when applying scents.

The church has asked us to be extra vigilant when we are disposing of our recycling and garbage. Please pour any liquid that you are disposing of in the bucket before putting the cup/container/bottle in the appropriate bin. You should also know that this church is a non-styrofoam facility and they ask that we not use Styrofoam in our meetings.

At this time, I would like to introduce our Area Committee.

Area 83 Officers

On my far right, our Panel 69 Delegate
On my immediate right, our Alternate Delegate
On my immediate left is our Secretary
Beside Amy is our Treasurer
Beside JoAnn is our Registrar
Our Panel 67 Immediate Past Delegate
And I'm your Chairperson

Rob M.
Kimberley M.
Amy L.
JoAnn P.
Dave L.
Kim S.
James O'D.

Area Sub-Committee Chairpersons

Public Information Chairperson
Cooperation with the Professional Community Chairperson
Correctional Facilities Chairperson
Treatment/Accessibility Chairperson

Ray R.
Bill C.
Les M.
Shane H.

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Grapevine Chairperson
Self-Support Chairperson
Archives Chairperson
Service Information Day Chairperson

Jenny C.
Mike B.
Marty M.
De R.

These are your Area Officers and Sub Committee Chairs for 2019- 2020

Also, with us today we have:

Previous Delegates:

Panel 61 Delegate Robb W.; Panel 63 Delegate Mel C.; Panel 65 Delegate Joyce S.

Appointed positions:

Area Webmaster – George McQ.; Area Alternate Webmaster – David C.

Housekeeping:

Our meeting schedule up to and including tentative dates in 2020 and 2021 will be included in the minutes. These dates are booked and secured with the hotel and church. Some are listed as tentative as the date of the following Assembly/Meeting is approved at the end of each meeting. We will be meeting in June, September and December this year. (Insurance for our ACM meetings here in Quinte for 2020 was purchased on November 6, 2019 at a cost of \$108.00). In 2021 the church will be implementing a modest, \$50-60 increase to offset costs. The rate here for our ACMs is less than the usual rate, as the church considers it a community outreach service.

Note, in future we are going to try and avoid having our ACMs on the first weekend of January.

Year	Date	Status	Type of Meeting	Where
2020	March 27-29	Approved	Area Assembly	Ambassador Hotel
2020	June 6	Approved ¹	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church
2020	September 12	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church
2020	October 23-25	Tentative	Area Assembly	Ambassador Hotel
2020	December 5	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church
2021	January 9	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church

¹Voted and approved at January 4, 2020 Area Committee meeting, see agenda item 15 in these minutes.

An email was sent out by our secretary in December regarding the Ambassador's concern that many rooms have not been spoken for. There is a huge demand and I would encourage you to discuss this with the GSRs in your Districts. When you are calling to make your reservations, to get the Group rate, Quote "Spring Assembly".

ROOM RESERVATIONS PROCEDURES *Our guestroom block will be held until 02/17/2020. After this date, any remaining guestrooms in our block will revert to the hotel for general sale. Reservations received after this date will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. If the group rate is not available after this date, the prevailing rates will apply for any reservations confirmed. Note, there is a hockey tournament that weekend, and it is expected that the hotel will sell out.*

The agenda for the Assembly is sent out approximately 6 weeks in advance. It is sent to DCM's to distribute to the GSR's. This is so that groups will have time to discuss the items and vote at the **group level** and at the **district level** prior to the assembly.

Food: Lunch has been arranged by Maria M. alternate DCM of District 30 at a cost of \$5.00, per serving. Ron and Hanna are working away in the kitchen. Tickets will be sold at the break prior to lunch. You must have a ticket to be served. *Thank-you Maria* for organizing the lunch, refreshments, and snacks.

Seating: As much as possible – District Committee Member's and Sub-Committee chairs sit on the outside of the tables. Alternate District Committee Member's on the inside. Visitors and Past Delegates are asked to sit at the tables set up at the sides of the room. This seating arrangement helps to facilitate the voting.

Who votes?

All Area Officers, including the immediate past Delegate, but not the Chair. All Area sub-committee Chairs. All District Committee Members of Districts in Area 83; in their absence, the Alternate District Committee Member may vote on behalf of their District. There is one vote per person.

How do we vote?

Procedure: Alcoholics Anonymous has traditionally made decisions by 'substantial unanimity'. In practice, this has translated to 2/3 majority. At times, I may ask for a show of hands to get a 'sense of the meeting'. This is not a vote, and anyone may raise his or her hand. I believe that the first part of the agenda today can be handled under simple majority. *The items under new business and old business are of such a nature to be under 2/3 majority and I will ask for a motion when we get to that point in the agenda.* If, at any time, you think that we should move to a 2/3 majority, please make the motion.

Minority Opinion: A.A. has always protected the voice and opinion of the minority. When we have a vote, unless the voting is unanimous, or if the vote was to cover items such as acceptance of minutes, I will ask if anyone wishes to speak to the minority. To be able to do this, you must have voted with the minority on the motion. If, after the minority has spoken, someone from the majority side of the vote wishes to change their vote, that person may make a motion to reconsider. If this is seconded and passes by a simple majority, we start discussion again on the *original* motion.

Calling the Question: During the discussion on a motion, a member, once recognized by the Chair, may move to "call the question". This is a motion to end discussion and move to the vote. This motion needs to be seconded, is not debatable, and requires a 2/3 majority to pass. If it passes, we go directly to the vote of the motion or amendment we were discussing. I would caution you not to use this privilege too often or too early – many good points and opinions will come out in discussions, and if discussion is prematurely cut off, we will not get to hear them.

Who may address the committee meeting?

It has been the *practice* at the Area committee level to use the same *principle* as we do at the Assemblies: only voting members of the Committee have a voice. This is important for two reasons:

- It keeps the focus on the fact that this Committee is in effect the steering committee of the Assembly – members are representing their District's positions or Area's in the case of our Officers, rather than their own.
- It also maximizes the time available for members to voice the opinions and needs of their District. All who are attending may say their piece during sharing time.

I respectfully ask for your cooperation in this. If you don't have a vote, as I mentioned, please keep your input for sharing time which is scheduled for later this afternoon. At that time all in attendance are welcomed to participate and their opinions will be heard.

Floor Motions

If you are making a floor motion for the Area Committee to consider today, it would be much appreciated if you would write your motion out and give it to our Secretary Amy.

I would entertain a motion now to carry out the first part of today's meeting by simple majority:

- **Motion for simple majority**

Moved:	Eileen S, DCM, District 28
Seconded:	Rick W., DCM, District 30
Discussion:	none
All those in favour:	All
All those opposed:	None
Any abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

2. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Are there any other items that should be added to today's agenda?

From the recent Fall Assembly:

Motion: Accept this recommendation the recommendation that an ad hoc committee be formed as suggested in point number 49. Motioned by: Bill C – Area CPC Chair

49) The Website guidelines and Responsibilities for Webmasters and the Alternate are dated.

Recommendation: Form an ad hoc committee to review Appendix Seven-Area 83 Website Guidelines and 3.19 Responsibilities of the Area 83 Webmaster and Alternate Webmaster.

In the report of the ad hoc committee reviewing the Operating Procedures they noted that some of the language and duties around the Webmaster were dated. It was in March 2010 –a Motion to amend the Area 83 Operating Procedures to add the position and responsibilities for the Area Webmaster and Alternate Webmaster to the OPs and was approved at the Jan 2010 ACM. The position and the responsibilities have not been reviewed since.

In response to the direction of the Assembly body, I formed an ad hoc committee comprised of David C – Alternate Webmaster, George McQ – Area Webmaster and Panel 61 Delegate, Robb W.

OLD BUSINESS TO BE ADDED

12B. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Website and Webmaster.

Robb W, Website and Webmaster Ad Hoc Committee Chair

NEW BUSINESS TO BE ADDED

13C. Discussion: Digital Basket (Digital contribution)

Mike B., Area Self-Support Chair

13D. Motion: That Area 83 consider supporting registration for a booth, of up to \$800, at the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians Conference which will be held in Ottawa, June 1-4, 2020. **Bill C., Area CPC Chair**

13F. Additional recommendations on Operating procedures from the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the OPs

Kimberley M., Alt Delegate

- **May I have a motion to accept the agenda as amended?**

Moved:	Jack R. DCM D36
Seconded:	Will H, DCM D14
Discussion:	none
All those in favour:	all

All those opposed:	None
Any abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

The question has been coming up over the years about having an **accessible riser at the front of the room at Assemblies in Kingston**. The free manual wheelchair unit provided at the Fall 2019 Assembly was deemed woefully inadequate. The hotel quoted a third party would charge us \$463 for the weekend. Upon initial research, we would be able to purchase a basic ramp ourselves from \$500-\$700. There are many factors to be considered. Some of these factors are the following:

- 1) Generally speaking, the Area shies away from acquiring physical assets. Of course, there have been many exceptions over the years for various reasons (computer, flip chart, overhead, etc.).
- 2) This is a large outlay of money. Is this the best use of Area funds?
- 3) Who will be in charge of holding on to the ramp in between Assemblies? Making sure it is properly installed and well maintained?
- 4) What happens if it ends up injuring someone due to malfunction? What is our exposure as an Area?

Feel free to approach me at the break to discuss this item or send me an email. (chairperson@area83aa.org) Perhaps there are other considerations that have not been thought of. The final decision belongs with the Area Chair. All your input is welcome.

3. ROLL CALL

Our Area Registrar Dave has circulated the attendance sheets – please sign in the appropriate spot – there is a separate section for visitors.

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S REPORT: The roll call for the Area Committee of January 4, 2020 is: 14 Area Officers (including Area Webmaster), 1 Immediate Past Delegate, 3 Past Delegate(s), 20 District Committee Members, 11 Alternate District Committee Members and 11 Visitors. For voting purposes, we have: 13 Area Officers eligible to vote (including 1 Immediate Past Delegate) and 20 District Committee Members plus 1 Alt DCM for a total of 34 votes. Total delegation for this meeting is 59.

4. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES –AREA COMMITTEE MEETING September 7, 2019

Minutes of the September 7, 2019 ACM were distributed by email and a hard copy was placed in many of your folders today.

Are there any errors or omissions in the minutes?

None were noted.

- **I would entertain a motion to accept the September 7, 2019 ACM minutes as circulated.**

Moved:	Tim F., DCM District 86
Seconded:	Bev H., DCM District 34
Discussion:	None
All in Favour:	All

Those opposed:	None
Absentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

5. DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

(Sequence of reports were drawn from the hat)

We have requested written reports from all Committee members, including District Committee Members. Members are asked to keep in mind the 2-minute time limit for verbal reports. Written reports may be as long as you like and will be included in the minutes in their entirety, if given to Amy, our Secretary.

I would ask members to come up to the mic to give their report. Order is determined by drawing District numbers from the bag. I will announce who is up and who is on deck. If you are “on deck”, please come up to the front and be ready to give your report when the DCM before you step down. Please clearly state your name, your position and your District when you are up here, thank you.

Let's get started

District 02 Malton

Good morning all, I'm an alcoholic, grateful member of the KF Group and have the honour and privilege of serving as District Committee Member for Malton, District 02 and my name is De.

Financially we are stable thanks to the groups who continue to contribute, and we are grateful for their support. We will be able to assist some groups financially to attend the upcoming Spring Assembly for those who cannot afford to. Unfortunately, some of our groups are struggling financially and attendance is down. We hope this is temporary.

Attendance at our District business meetings is consistent, and all of our subcommittee positions are filled. Our Treatment commitments at the Brampton Detox twice weekly continue to be filled for the thanks to the dedication of our groups and our Treatment and Alternate Treatment Chairs.

We continue to contact and visit individual Groups to determine if they are accessible to forward to Toronto Intergroup for their Meeting Guide which will be published soon. We are also trying to establish which groups are either not registered or have closed. We look forward to continuing our Service within the District, and Area.

Yours in Grateful Service, De R.

District 06 Mississauga

Submitted; read by Secretary

Good Morning All, I'm an alcoholic, member of Daily Reflection Group. I have the honor and privilege to serve as the DCM for District 06, my name is Susan. My apologies for not being present for today's meeting.

District 06 has been very busy and active since our last meeting of September 7th. We have filled all our committee positions shy of Alternate Chairs for Public Information and Archives. From May through to September we had noted a decline in participation at our monthly district meeting. To encourage attendance, we have implemented a formal invitation to the District Table, via email from our Secretary, one week prior to the meeting and the day of. Hard to say if it was coincidence or not but we went from 14 groups attending in October to 21 in November and 20 groups in December. We're thrilled with the renewed enthusiasm and the spirit of participation around the table.

I also visited groups that do not attend our monthly district meeting. I wanted to deliver a copy of the 2019 Final General Service Conference Report, update our contact information to ensure that they are being kept up to date and to encourage participation in our monthly meetings. The visits were well received. Our Treatment Chair Chris is successfully filling our service commitments and we continue to stock the Peel Youth Village, Cawthra Centre and Jean Tweed with Big Books, 12 and 12s, pamphlets and meeting guides. Chris is currently in discussions with a member who has reached out for help with supporting the “Gift of Life” service meeting at Humber River Hospital. While this meeting is outside of our District area, we are moving forward with support. Corrections Chair Robbie is meeting our commitments at Toronto South, our district has been generous with bringing in used Grapevines which he has delivered, along with several pocket-sized Big books which came by way of donation from Ajax Group and a member. Pocket-sized Big Books are in high demand and it is likely we will need to replenish.

All other committee chairs are working hard on several initiatives; CPC is talking about a “Bring a Professional” night, PI is calling all school libraries in the district to see if they need a copy of the Big Book, Archives is working on completing our District 06 History Portfolio, Grapevine, when requested is setting up at meetings through out the District, Accessibility position was filled a couple months back and is working on catching up and has brought our attention to the “Meetings on the Go” initiative and Self-Support, also a newly filled position, is enthusiastically bringing the message to our meetings.

Our finances are in good shape with 19 groups contributing year to date. We were able to support 4 Committee Chairs who are not currently GSR's, our 4 table officers and 1 group GSR to attend the Fall Assembly.

I continue to support the Information AA Day Committee as their Treasurer. The 8 GTA Districts and Toronto Intergroup have met twice and will be meeting monthly starting February in preparation for the event on May 23, 2020. Thank you for my sobriety.

Yours in Love and Service, Susan K

District 10 Toronto South Central

Hi everyone. I'm an Alcoholic, a member of Eglinton Park Group, and my name is Ann. I am honoured to be serving as Alternate DCM for District 10, and currently as the interim acting DCM for District 10.

The 4th quarter of 2019 was a very busy period for us. At present, 4 of our 5 District Positions are filled, with the exception of our DCM position. After long and careful deliberations Doug P. chose to step down as District 10 DCM in December 2019 due to personal reasons. He will be missed. Doug was a great leader and active member of the District 10 table. An election for a new DCM is being held at our January 14 District meeting, an exciting kickoff for 2020!

Participation: As a quick recap, District 10 currently has 26 registered groups. Of which about 15-16 regularly attend our District meetings. This is down slightly from earlier in the year, but it was a busy time of year for many and still represents a healthy 60% participation rate. Having said that, we'd like to see participation rise, so we will be actively encouraging more GSR's to attend regularly in 2020.

Positions:

While we filled 1 of 3 open committee positions in the fall, another opened up, so we remain at 8 of 11 committee chairs filled. Accessibility, Grapevine and CPC are currently open and we're working hard to fill those positions. We've also had turnover of 3 GSR's since the last Area Committee meeting, as well as adding 3 new Alternate GSR's, so the table has been in a bit of flux. We have a committed and enthusiastic group of participants in District 10. That being said, it's a fairly new table, and we're working and growing together, supporting each other and making good use of more seasoned General Service members in AA.

Service Commitments: We put on 26 service commitments each month across various facilities and treatment centres, which are mostly well attended. Our group participation is high in terms of filling these monthly commitments with group members chairing these meetings, as well as other members attending as support.

Finances: Overall, D10 is financially healthy, currently meeting all obligations, with multiple groups contributing. Contributions in 2019 were down approximately \$900 over 2018, with fewer groups contributing but we were able to maintain our obligations, along with our historical contributions to Area and GSO.

New Developments: We have focused our GSR sharing to the four primary topics: **Attendance, Financial Health, Medallions, and Significant News** such as building closures/format changes/etc. and it is working well. It has brought consistency to reporting, and group health, along and an opportunity to share and our successes and what works/doesn't work at the group level.

On that note, with so many new people at the table, we will be proposing a GSR training workshop for February, to bring the new GSRs and Alternate GSR's up to speed with their roles.

Overall, we have been participating in AA events and initiatives within the GTA and Area and are looking forward to an active and engaged 2020 with a table of committed and enthusiast participants. Personally, I feel very fortunate to be part of AA General Service, and to be working with such a great team in both the District and the Area.

Yours in Love and Service, Ann J.

District 12 Toronto South West

Good morning everyone. I am an alcoholic a member of the Westmoreland Group and District Committee Member for District 12, Toronto Southwest. My name is Dennis. Finally, all of our committee chair positions are filled. We are financially sound covering all our service commitments. Some new faces at the District table as we move forward.

Yours in Love and Service, Dennis M.

District 14 Toronto North Central

Good morning Friends, I am an alcoholic and I am a member of the Street Level and Mt. Albert groups, and I have the pleasure and honour of serving as the District Committee Member for District 14 and my problem is Will. Happy New Year!

All of our service commitments are being met. We have a new service meeting, Thursday nights at a shelter. They reached out, and at the last Area Assembly, I had found out about it. It is on my way home, so it was kind of cool, I was able to drop in there and they welcomed us on with open arms and we have been putting that meeting on since the Beginning of November.

Our district Table is attended well by the groups; we have some subcommittee chair positions that are open. Our Alternate and myself have been filling in where we can. Bill W., who is our alternate, is in conversation with District 18 to have a joint information AA Day together. Dianne M, from the Street level sobriety group is here attending her first Area Committee Meeting. She was excited and even asked to come. I didn't even have to voluntold her.

For the first time I went to the Winter Season Open house, and I saw the great work that AA does there. I had a spiritual experience there with two sponsees. We were folding napkins and it was so great to give back. I am grateful to be a member of AA and thank you for my sobriety.

Yours in Love and Service, Will H

District 16 Distrito Hispano De Toronto

(absent and no report submitted)

District 18 Toronto City East

Good morning friends. I am an alcoholic, member of the East York group, having the honour, privilege and responsibility to serve as the District Committee Member for Toronto City East District 18. My name is Glenn.

In addition to their usual service, our District 18 officers are, and continue to be, very active in either supporting or driving sub-committee/ad hoc committee initiatives. Christy F., our Alternate District Committee member, along with four of our group service representatives, formed a District 18 ad hoc website committee and completed their report. The District 18 table has received their report and will be considering related recommendations at our February meeting. Christy joins us here today. She continues to encourage our District 18 members, regarding technological innovation regarding zoom and other communication vehicles. Greg R., our Treasurer, is our Alternate Accessibilities Chair, Candice F, our Registrar, is Alternate Self Support Chair, Sue H. our Secretary, is Alternate Archives chair and participated on the website committee. We have a vacancy at Self Support chair. I attend on behalf of the District. We are a cohesive team, in constant communication, attending at half of our group's meetings each month, reviewing both current and future goals!

Our many sub-committee chairs are also active: Jeff for both CPC and PI, Rick for Archives, Jennifer for Treatment, John M for Grapevine. The District table is functioning in an enthusiastic, respectful and cooperating manner. Many of our GSR's, from our 26 groups, have actively attended our District meetings this year. Attendance ranges from approximately 40 to 60 percent. We continue to recruit additional committee members from our District 18 groups. We also both encourage and support our GSR's to attend the Area 83 Eastern Ontario International Assembly and Service Information day. Our District is both spiritually and financially fit.

Our District 18 committee chairs and officers, as well as our groups and members, continue to strongly facilitate carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. They honour weekly service commitment meetings: parole board, hospital, men's detox. They serve in tandem with other District chairs on Greater Toronto Area Intergroup committees. Most recently, our events included: Toronto Intergroup joint sharing, supporting Toronto Intergroup's September 21st Traditions workshop initiative, and supporting the November 3rd Greater Toronto Area Archives Breakfast. Upcoming events include: Ontario Regional Conference, Spring Area 83 Assembly & Service day, AA Information day, and East Toronto Archives breakfast hosted jointly by District 18 & District 22. Additionally, our alternate delegate Kimberley has agreed to facilitate a District inventory for us on January 14th. Thank you, Kimberley, both for this and your zoom communication initiatives!

Our District 18 boundaries are large, and we have initiated redistricting discussions with District 14 and District 22. We will also wish to consult with Districts 26 and 82. Our alternate delegate Kimberley has been researching Area 83 minutes in an attempt to clarify ancient redistricting boundaries. Hopefully, this will give us a starting position to work from. Notwithstanding these boundary clarification efforts, it is important to note that any group can choose to belong to any district. A main objective is to ensure that each District adequately support all the groups in that District.

Halfway into this term of service, I am still excited to be working with another dedicated group of like-minded Three Legacy individuals. Thank you.

Yours in both gratitude and loving service, Glenn G.

District 22 Scarborough

Good morning everyone. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the District Committee Member for Scarborough District 22. I am an alcoholic, member of the Fifth Tradition and my name is Lynn. We have 22 groups within our district and approximately 75% attend our monthly meeting. We are doing well financially and continue carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Treatment Facilities include Scarborough General Hospital. Correctional Facilities at the Metro Toronto East Detention Centre.

Our District Officer positions are filled with the exception of Secretary. Most Sub Committee positions are full. We are in need of Alternate Sub-Committee as most positions remain available. Our next District meeting will be held next Sunday January 12th at our regular meeting location at Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre in Scarborough.

Upcoming Joint Sharing meeting to be held Tues February 6th 2020. These meetings are held quarterly at Toronto Intergroup to include all 8 GTA Districts. Info AA Day committee meeting will resume this month after holiday break. Meetings are held 4th Monday at Toronto Intergroup. Event Date – Saturday May 23rd 2020 at Bonar Parkdale Presbyterian Church on Dunn Ave. I will continue as Hospitality Coordinator.

East Toronto Archives Breakfast 15th Annual – plans are underway for this cohosted event with District 18 Toronto City East. Event Date – Sunday May 3rd 2020 at Qssis Banquet Hall.

Spring Area Assembly – planning ahead for the weekend at Ambassador in Kingston. Mar 27-29, 2020. I will be having a discussion with GSRs regarding booking their rooms early as possible. District Inventory was facilitated by our Alternate Delegate Kimberly M on Nov 10/19. There was 21 people in attendance. Detailed Minutes have been provided by Cynthia S and will be discussed at our next district meeting.

Sad News of the passing of a well-known member in the Toronto Area. Art W. of the Twelve Steps Group (formerly at Danforth Group) passed away on Dec 11, 2019 his 15-year AA Anniversary. His medallion was presented to his family. Have a safe trip home,

Yours in Love & Service, Lynn E.

District 26 Lakeshore West

Good morning Friends and happy New Year! I'm an alcoholic, grateful member of the Whitby Serenity Group, and my name is Terry. It is my honour and privilege to serve District 26 as district committee member.

Our district is doing well. We are financially secure, and attendance at the last couple of meetings has been about 65%. I attended a Zoom meeting hosted by the Area 83 Panel 67 Delegate, Kim S. on Safety in AA. There were 32 members in attendance, it was an awesome meeting.

On December 15th we had a nomination for Alternate DCM, and I am proud to introduce Guy L. from the Port Whitby Group. December 15th Rob and Kimberley (our delegate and alternate delegate) attended our district meeting and discussed the upcoming "What the Delegate needs to know" and how the zoom meetings are going to be working. Our secretary has been selected to take minutes for one of these sessions. Shows how important it is for our Delegate to know what is going on. We had an alkathon, it was a great success. It was the first time in the history of this event that every group paid their participation fee. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Yours, in Love & Service, Terry N.

District 28 Lakeshore East

I'm an alcoholic, member of the Gratitude Group and it's my honour and privilege to serve as District Committee Member for District 28, and my name is Eileen.

District 28 is doing very well. Our financial and other obligations are being met. At our January District meeting we will elect our annual auditors. At our last District meeting we had a member stand for Treatment/Accessibility Chair. This position was vacant for some time, and we are pleased to welcome Matt K to the District table. We now have all of our positions filled. Committees are working diligently to carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic, regardless of length of sobriety.

Each year, along with District 26, Lakeshore Districts participate in a 24 hour Alcathon at the Oshawa Alano Club. 33 groups participated in Gratitude meetings, held every hour from noon Christmas eve until noon Christmas Day. The 2019 Alcathon was a huge success and I really look forward to this annual tradition.

Between the Alternate DCM and I the District has been hearing about the Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions since before the holidays. Ideally, the District will have several members participate on the March 10th Corrections Session. I'm looking forward in participating in as many sessions as possible.

Yours in Love and Service, Eileen S

District 30 Quinte West

Hello friends, I am an alcoholic, a member of The Alderville Pioneer Group, currently serving District 30 as District Committee Member; my name is Rick.

I am here today with District 30's Alternate District Committee Member Maria. District 30 is holding regular meetings once a month, all our financial obligations have been met, we have good attendance. At September's meeting, there was a notice of motion made to separate treatment and accessibility. Shane H., our Area 83 treatment accessibility chair attended our meeting in November and gave a presentation on accessibility. I would like to thank Shane for his time and a great presentation; thank you Shane. At our September meeting we had our vote to separate treatment and accessibility, and I'm happy to say district-30 now has stand-alone treatment and accessibility chair positions. Our Roundup committee is currently working on putting together our annual spring Roundup. We will also be taking part in a service information day with District 26, 28, 82 and 86.

Yours in love and service, Rick W.

District 34 Quinte East

Good Morning – I am an alcoholic currently serving as District Committee Member for District 34 – Quinte East. My home group is Women Living Sober, and my name is Bev. I would also like to share that today our District 34's Alt. DCM – Inge D. is here with me.

Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in District 34. Since the assembly back in October, I shared the Sub Committee Chair position of Public Information was vacant and that still holds true today. We do have a member who is currently overseeing the Telephone Answering Service. We are hopeful the position will be filled sooner rather than later. We also have had a change with our District Treasurer. Our past Treasurer had to step down due to work commitments, but the position has been filled and our new Treasurer is ready to step in for her first meeting of the new year at the end of January. All other positions in the District are filled. All our financial commitments are being met and we have approximately 50 - 55% of groups attending.

As I have shared previously, a committee has been formed to review and update our Operating Procedures. A draft of these procedures will be presented at our January District meeting.

There have been many celebrations of Alcoholics Anonymous in District 34 and many more to come. In November the Belleville and Area Roundup was held and again it was a great day of fellowship, food and recovery. It was also the 25th year for the roundup. Also, in November, Harvey R celebrated his 50- year medallion at the Lennox Group in Napanee. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended. December presented itself with plenty of Gratitude meetings throughout the district. Lastly, all members of District 34 wish you a happy, healthy and much contented sobriety for 2020.

Yours in Love and Service, Bev H.

District 36 Kingston & The Islands

Good morning friends, I am an alcoholic and a member of the Saturday Morning Step Stop Group in Kingston and I am honoured and privileged to be serving as the DCM for District 36 Kingston and the Islands. My name is Jack.

Attendance at our district meetings continues to be good with over 80% of groups attending. Last month the Verona Breakfast Group voted to join District 36 as it was closer for their members to be able to attend to any service commitments. We now have 26 groups attending at the table.

In the last 6 months at the district we were able to finally modify and approve several appendices to our District Operating Procedures, which we have termed District Service Guidelines. We now have a working document to move forward into the second year of our term, and into the next term.

We now have an inside member Stewart S.F. from the Collins Bay Pathways to Freedom group regularly attending as a voting member at the table. The 4 Corrections groups are thriving, and we are endeavouring to get more outside members to volunteer. A 5th meeting has started up at Collins Bay medium and appears to have good attendance. Groups have contributed old Grapevines and sobriety chips to Ron M. our corrections chair for distribution to inside members.

Our District subcommittee chairs are doing great work completing their service commitments. Our finances are good and we have made contributions to Area 83 and GSO. Happy New Year as we look forward to a productive second half of our terms!

Yours in Gratitude and Service, Jack R.

District 42 St. Lawrence International

Read by Alternate DCM, David D.

Greeting from across the river. All is well in district 42. Our finances are in good order and have been stable for several months with income matching our expenses. We have seen an uptick in attendance at the district table. This is a good development and may be the beginning of the end of our downward trend. We still have open positions in the district, but as we all know, progress not perfection. The one highlight of December was to cancel our district meeting which was to occur on December 25th. We didn't want to wreck our upward attendance trend.

At our November meeting our Treatment Chair stepped down, but we do have someone who is willing to take this position with a little prodding. I guess it is my job to do the prodding.

Lastly, we have instituted verbal GSR reports at the district meeting. This gives our GSRs a chance to talk about what is happening at their groups and hopefully will encourage more of them to attend district.

Yours in love and service, Ted R

District 48 Seaway Valley North

Good morning friends, my name is Wayne, and I am an alcoholic. I am grateful to be a member of the Kemptville Sunday morning group and privileged to be District Committee Member for District 48, Seaway Valley North.

I want to wish everyone here and their loved ones all the best for 2020. Beginning a new year, and the second half of our term, I had cause to reflect on the past year and both the opportunities and challenges that it has presented for our District Committee. Applying the principles that we have been given in AA, we have learned from those experiences and can better serve our District in the second year of our term.

In December we learned that our Self-Support chair had to step down for health reasons, but GSRs will inform members of our need, and I know that we will get the help that we need. On a personal note, a good friend and member of our Kemptville Sunday Morning group is very near the end of her battle with a terminal illness, and thanks to sobriety she is dealing with this reality with courage.

Even as we deal with these challenges, we will meet next Tuesday evening to finalize the arrangements for our 26th Annual Roundup on Saturday February 1 at Dixon's Corners. There are flyers at the corner of the table. Please feel free to pick up one and take it back to your district. This is a wonderful AA and Al-anon day with Panels, guest speaker and, most importantly, great fellowship.

All of these experiences are blessings that we have thanks to AA. Thank you for my sobriety.

Yours in Love and Service, Wayne L.

District 50 Cornwall

(absent and no report submitted)

District 54 Ottawa Rideau

Happy New Year! My name is Jo D. I am an alcoholic. I am a member of the Search for Serenity Group in Orleans. And I am privileged to serve as DCM for District 54 – Ottawa-Rideau.

About this time last year, I talked about the fact that church in whose basement five of our 21 groups meet, decided not to renew the lease for those Groups. I am pleased to report that the five have found new digs and that they are all meeting in the same building. It was important that the five remain together if possible. The five collectively do good service in the east end of Ottawa: they organize the annual Vanier Round Up and an "East-a-thon" to pick up where the Alkathon ends. While there is some grumbling when comparing old to new location, they are just getting on with the business of sobriety. The most positive feedback I've heard from those five groups is that the new surroundings are "cozy".

The District is in good shape. We are doing well financially; we are meeting all of our service commitments; we engage in learning together; and most of the Table positions are filled.

As DCM, I am feeling that page 124 of the Twelve and Twelve provides a good description of how the District is doing: *"Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort...."* I arrive at our District meetings and I get excited to see 12 of our 20 Home Groups represented – over half – and, in some cases, by two or more members. I leave our District meetings happy because the people around the Table are interested, engaged and curious.

I am holding two short Zoom training sessions for GSRs and A/GSRs, one in January and one in February. These are just so GSRs can get familiar with the key features of Zoom so that they can teach members of their Home Group how easy it will be to join the pre-conference sharing sessions in March.

I am told by the Alkathon Chair that this year's event was a success. We will get more information in February when a Committee member will come to our District meeting. Yours in Service, Jo D.

District 58 Ottawa Bytown

Good morning. My name is Kim, District Committee Member for District 58 – Ottawa By-town and I am an alcoholic. District 58 is doing well. Service commitments are being fulfilled and finances remain adequate. I continue to look for an Alternate DCM, and people to represent District 58 at the Ottawa PI/CPC and Archives committees and at Intergroup.

The recent Alkathon was a success providing 24 hours of meetings and fellowship on Christmas Eve to Christmas Day and New Years Eve to New Years Day.

Yours in Service, Kim B.

District 62 Ottawa West

Hello, I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Stittsville Second Chance Group, and the District Committee Member for District 62 - Ottawa West, my name is Trevor.

District 62 has a couple of vacant positions at our District table. Our Registrar position was recently filled, and we are hoping that the Alternate District Committee Member position will be filled shortly. Also, our Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional community liaison recently stepped down, so we are hoping to replace that as soon as possible. Our district meetings have been averaging about 25 groups in attendance.

At our January district meeting, we will be holding a General Service Representative workshop, facilitated by Sue B. The workshop is open to all members of AA interested in learning more about General Service, and we will be having a potluck before the workshop begins. I have passed along an invitation to Districts 54 and 58, and our local service committees will each be setting up a display table at the workshop.

The Ottawa area just held its annual Alkathon over Christmas and New Year's, which went very well.

Financially, we are doing well and keeping up all of our obligations. Our district maintains commitments at the Ottawa Withdrawal Management Center and Newgate 180 Treatment Center, with different groups volunteering each month to fill those commitments. Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in Ottawa West, and I'm grateful to be a part of it.

Yours in Love and Service, Trevor F.

District 66 Golden Triangle

Good morning, friends. I am an alcoholic, and the District Committee Member for Golden Triangle District 66. My name is Neil. It's been a busy 3 months in District 66, despite only 50% group participation at our monthly meetings.

Financially District 66 is sound, and we are supporting the AA structure. Our new website is up and running. There is some tweaking to be done, but for the most part it's complete. Even better news as we are now feeding the Meeting Guide App. Big thanks to our webmaster and her fiancé.

Our Corrections chair stepped down for personal reasons. It didn't take long for someone in our district to step up and to take his place. Our Alternate DCM Theresa, who is in attendance today, is relieved. 😊

Our PI/CPC chair is out of the country for the winter, and one of his volunteers is stepping in during his absence. He is looking for volunteers to distribute literature and pamphlets.

There were two Alcathons held in our district over the holidays and it sounds like they served the purpose they were meant to. To provide a safe place for those who find it difficult to stay sober during this time of the year. Our annual District Roundup will be held Saturday April 11 at the Lombardy Fairgrounds. Everyone should have picked up a flyer from your DCM goodies. Literature sales are very high, as our literature chair can't keep big books in stock. This is a good thing for AA, right?

One of our members has decided to hold a monthly Traditions workshop starting in April. I am blessed to be surrounded by so many amazing people in our district. I am very sad to report we lost a couple of longtime members late last year. Bill O. and Pat C. Both will be missed.

Yours in loving service, Neil P.

70 Renfrew Pontiac

Good morning. I am DCM of District 70, Renfrew Pontiac, my homegroup is Douglas Group, my name is Lisa and I am an alcoholic. The Turning Point Group hosted a Gratitude Potluck in Arnprior on December 19th. The Kinburn group hosted a candlelight gratitude meeting on December 27th.

Our PC/CPC Seanna B. has made contact with the two high schools in Renfrew and we have placed an ad in the local paper that reads *"If you think you have a problem with alcohol, we can help"*. Then it lists our phone number and website. We are still in need of an Alternate DCM but are pleased to report that Mark T. from Steps and Traditions group has volunteered to be the Archivist.

Last but not least, preparations are under way for our Annual March Roundup which will be March 14th at the Renfrew Armouries.

Yours in Love and Service, Lisa C.

District 74 Pembroke

I am an alcoholic, member of the Hand of AA Group, District Committee Member for District 74 and my name is Jane. I am grateful to be entering in to the second year as District Committee Member for District 74. This has been a year of growth, learning and fellowship beyond what I would have imagined at this time last year. I have been truly blessed with this opportunity and by the guidance and love of the members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 83.

District 74 currently has two Committee Chair positions open, CPC/PI and Grapevine. Lori N. has joined us as our secretary and Sue G. as our temporary registrar. Our monthly meetings have been well attended. Financially we are in very good shape. Our obligations are being met and will be able to make contributions to area and GSO.

Our District voted to run a public service announcement the week between Christmas and New Years in the local paper with the 12 questions, as we have done in years past. As well, our 24-hour helpline is in place and working properly along with our website. Thanks to our webmaster, George, we are now up and current on the Meeting Guide App. as well.

District 74 has grown this year with the addition of two new meetings in the Petawawa area, Friday Nights at the Civic Centre at 8pm and Wednesday Nights at CFB Petawawa. Information on the Wednesday meeting will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

The Hand of AA group is planning a spaghetti dinner in February, please keep an eye on our website for further details. Our annual spring conference will be held on May 9, 2020. The venue has been chosen and we are planning a great day of fellowship, information and food. A flyer and more details will be available at the Spring Assembly as well as on our website in the coming weeks.

As this new year rolls in, I reflect on the past year with gratitude for this fellowship more than ever before. The word Gratitude is described in the dictionary as "readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness." I am ready to put my gratitude in to action. Thank you for this opportunity to serve and grow.

Yours in love and service, Jane S.

District 78 Madawaska Valley

Good morning Friends, I am an alcoholic, humbly serving as the DCM for District 78 and my name is Michelle.

Happy New Year from the Valley! Over the past month I was privileged enough to attend some wonderful gratitude meetings that were beautifully done and well attended. District 78 is pleased to announce the opening of a new meeting! Paudash Serenity Group is a closed 12 and 12 discussion meeting held on Tuesdays at 7 pm at St. Mark's

United Church. This is the same location as the old Paudash meeting for those of you who are familiar. Our district table still needs a few more butts in the chairs...but we are working hard to fill them. I wish you all another sober 24!

Yours in love and service, Michelle C-H

District 82 Victoria Haliburton

Submitted; read by Secretary

Good Morning. I am an alcoholic, I belong in the Bolsover Pines Group and AA as a whole and my name is Glenn. At our District 82 meeting on December 8 we had 10 GSR's in attendance out of 13 active groups at the district table.

District 82 is doing well financially, and we have been able to meet all of our financial obligations. We put public service announcements in the district newspapers over the holidays. Our corrections team was able to hold two meetings for both the men's and ladies at the Lindsay jail in the month of November. The meetings were well attended! We are excited to announce that Mike A has stepped in as our new PIC chair and is already doing an excellent job.

We successfully updated the District 82 AA website. Meetings are now available on the Meeting Guide App. We look forward to having Rob M and Kimberley joining our district meeting in February. The District 82 conference will be held in Lindsay at the Lindsay Armouries on Saturday May 2, 2020. All are welcome!

Yours in Love and Service, Glenn B

District 86 Kawartha

Good Morning Friends, I am an alcoholic, proud member of the Freedom Group, currently serving as District Committee Member of District 86, and my name is Tim. Today with me is our Alternate Bruce B. I want to wish everyone an awesome and sober New Year. It has been a pleasure to get to know all of you over the last year and looking forward to spending more time with you this year.

All is well in District 86 and our first District Meeting of 2020 will be held tomorrow. Other than our Treatment Chair stepping down in December all our positions are filled. We hope to have that position filled tomorrow. Financially we are doing well and are meeting all our obligations. Looking forward to setting up a Zoom Self-Support presentation at our February District meeting. Introducing the Area Chairperson into our District meeting via this technology with some volunteered equipment. Thanks to Mike B and Elsa W for setting this up. After a great Fall Assembly I'm looking forward to the Spring Assembly.

Yours in Gratitude, Love and Service, Tim F.

Thank you to all those who gave reports.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

We now come to our Area Sub-Committee Chair reports. We rely on your humility and compassion to keep your reports brief. As with the Districts, written reports may be as long as you like and will be included in the minutes in their entirety, if given to Amy, our Secretary. I would ask the committee members to stay at the front after their reports to answer any questions, if any.

A. Public Information

Ray R.

I'm an alcoholic, an active member of the Last Chance Grp, my name is Ray. I have the privilege of serving as area 83, panel 69 Public Information Chair. Seasons Greeting, and a safe and sober New Year everyone.

There hasn't been much activity in recent, in the way of workshops and presentations, but I have been active in other events such as bring a professional day, the winter season open house, and working the phone lines at the Toronto Intergroup Office.

I've also been honing my skills on the now popular zoom app, I've done a few tutorials on how to host a meeting, chair a meeting, and even participated in a mock session for the pre conference sharing, which is all fairly new and exciting.

Upcoming events include, A Day of Recovery, in Brampton, ORC, Info AA Day, and the World Conference in July in Michigan.

I'm looking forward to an exciting new year, continue to send me your reports, and know that I'm available, either in person, or via the zoom app, for workshops and presentations, or whatever. I can be reached at pi@area83.org.

Yours in Love and Service

Ray R.

B. Cooperation with the Professional Community Bill C.

I am an Alcoholic, a member of The West End Group in District 74 Pembroke, and my name is Bill. It is my privilege to serve you as your Area Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair for this term of Panel 69.

Since our Assembly meeting in October CPC has been engaged in many interesting activities in the last part of the year. We are in the process of finalizing a date for our third CPC District Chairs meeting which will be in later January. I have had a chance to work with two new CPC District Chairs and get them oriented in the opportunities to bring to the attention of professionals in their District that AA is a resource in their community and is available for their clients with Alcohol Abuse problems.

I have been working with Diana L at the General Service Office, who is the Cooperation with the Professional Community Coordinator in New York regarding support for the Pri-Med Conference in May in Toronto. At this point we have confirmed that literature and a display rack will be provided by New York.

Diana L touched base with me in late November regarding a contact that GSO had received from the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians regarding AA in Eastern Ontario. Jo-Anne D from District 54 followed up directly with the contact and was presented with an opportunity for AA to participate in their annual meeting which will be in Ottawa 1-4 June 2020. The challenge is the registration fee (\$3,000). In short, we have approached GSO – who can provide literature and possibly a booth, but not funds; we talked with Jan L, our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee, about the opportunity and she has drafted a note which was sent to the Eastern Delegates in mid-December to see if their Areas would be willing to assist in the cost of registration. At this point, no commitments, but an agreement to bring it to their Area Committee Meetings being held this quarter.

I was contacted by Leah C, Area 82 (Atlantic Canada) regarding a problem that they are facing – specifically *"In our Area we are trying to find a better way for our PI and CPC Committees across the province to communicate."* We have been discussing the Video Conferencing meetings we have quarterly as well as how Area 83 has been using Zoom more generally. I was also able to let her know about the North American CPC initiative.

On the North American initiative, David L (Area 67, CPC Chair) and I have been working on a late February date and Agenda for the next meeting.

I have been elected as a resource for you to use. An invitation or question from any District is all that is required. If you would like me to do some type of workshop or presentation for your District, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for allowing me to serve not only Area 83 but Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Yours in Love and Service, Bill C. cpc@area83aa.org

Questions following the CPC report:

QUESTION: Is there a deadline for making the payment to participate with a booth at Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians?

ANSWER: Yes, 31 December was the deadline for \$2500 rate, but we are going to work this and see what kind of interest there is from the rest of Eastern Canada to support this event.

C. Correctional Facilities

Les M.

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm an alcoholic, member of the Foxboro Friendship Group in District 34. I have the honour and privilege of being your Area 83 Corrections Facilities Chairperson.

I am still getting the minutes from the Districts, this lets me know what is going on with corrections in each district. Thank you.

I've been going into Warkworth Institution on a Visitor's Pass, I have been there about six times. On December 18, 2019 they had a 52-year Group Anniversary and a Social which was well attended. I also have the paperwork at home to get my finger prints done, this has been a long process. I'm excited that it is now happening, when the fingerprints are done, and I get my clearance then I will apply to get into other Institutions and be able to help out with the meetings on the inside.

I have been asked to do an Inventory for the Stirling Group / District 34 in February. I have attended different Zoom Sessions with my Service Sponsor in order to do a zoom session in March on Corrections Agenda Items for our Delegate Rob M to take to the Conference in New York.

I'm available for Service Days or Help, also a resource for you to use. You can reach me at email: cf@area83aa.org On a last note "If no one told you today that they love you, let Me be the First".

Yours in Love and Service, Les

D. Treatment Facilities/ Accessibility

Shane H.

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Shane. Currently serving as your Area Treatment/Accessibility Chair.

Treatment: the treatment workshop went well in Kington, with lots of positive feedback. Thanks again to Rob F., District 26 treatment chair, Denise District 12 and Chris C. District 06 for an amazing and informative workshop. To date 240 Bridging the Gap (BtG) requests have been placed by this chair. BtG requests hold steady with 3-5 requests a week on average. The Toronto Intergroup Intra-district committee will now be using zoom as a supplement to those who cannot attend. Due to my work schedule, on a selfish note, this will help me to do my job better to serve you even better.

Accessibility: This alcoholic was surprised to see the attendance at our last Assembly's workshop. I counted over 90 people showed up. Gils presentation on the military and AA was very informative and well received. Inge and Linda of District 48 did a great presentation on mobility issues. Linda spoke on her experiences with her husband and his mobility issues before he died and what she went through as a caregiver while Inge interpreted in American Sign language. Bert J., of Toronto Intergroup, spoke on mobile meetings. A lot of positive feed back on that in the surveys. There were a lot of Districts interested and took those cards back to their districts. This is the type of meeting that any accessibility committee anywhere can do, whether it is rural or urban.

On the third Sunday in November, my son and I attended District 30's business meeting. I did a 10-minute presentation. In December Tim called me to tell me that District 30 voted for a stand-alone Accessibility committee. We have 12 districts (half of Area 83's districts) that have Accessibility as a stand-alone committee, (2,6,10, 12, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 48, 66 and 86). Wow! incredible growth. This does not include those districts that have Accessibility as a combined responsibility with Treatment. Keep up the good work. Toronto's Intergroup Accessibility committee is up and running and is strong as it has ever been with 10 in attendance at last months meeting. An Ad Hoc committee has been formed to plan for the future mobile meeting that I have been talking about.

Looking forward to a new era of Accessibility in Area 83. Last but not least, a question came up at the last Assembly: Is Accessibility recognized at GSO? No one had an answer at the time. The answer is yes; it is a primary committee and it shares a desk with treatment on the General Service Conference (GSC) Committee. The Trustees' committee on Accessibility shares a desk with CPC. The name has evolved from Special Needs, then it became Special Needs - Accessibilities, and now its present incarnation is Accessibilities. Note of interest, Archives is noted as a secondary committee at the GSC but has some of the highest level of attendance at District and Area Level.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

In service, Shane H.

E. Grapevine

Jenny C.

Hello friends, I'm a member of the Smiths Falls Saturday Night group, currently surfing as your Area Grapevine Chair. I'm an alcoholic and my name is Jenny.

"In AA, I have learned to take inventory often. Sometimes I even take my own!"
~Andy T in Grandview. January 2020 Grapevine.

Happy new year everyone I hope your holidays were happy joyous and free. I hope that everyone was able to take advantage of the free shipping on grapevine products before the new year. This offer ended December 31st.

Since we last met I have been able to take part in a mock pre conference sharing session via zoom. And will be taking part in another before the end of the month. In preparation for the pre conference sharing sessions that will be taking place March 8th through 16th. I am excited for this new endeavour the area has taking on and believe this technology will only help us be better. I have been taking part when I can in the monthly GTA grapevine meeting. The next one is January 21st. In April 11th I will be attending the golden Triangle district 66 round up.

I am excited to say that Area 83 has had another article published in the grapevine. It is published in this month's issue "Coming to Believe" he speaks about getting sober in Toronto.

In closing. January is often a time for New Years resolutions. Or a time to refresh new, old habits. Why not start with something healthy for your recovery? Purchase a Grapevine subscription and indulge in a little reading each day. Subscription are at the cost of \$35.00 Canadian + is conversion. We hope GSO will be able to update the website to provide an option to choose your desired currency soon. I can be reached at Grapevine@area83aa.org

GrapeFull to be of service
Jenny C.

Questions following Grapevine Report:

QUESTION: do you know anything about the Grapevine articles that are now available as audible files? I have an Online only subscription and have had many of the Grapevine articles and other goodies available listen.

ANSWER: I didn't know about this, I but will look into it. The Audio Magazine is available to anyone with a GV Online or GV complete subscription.

F. Self-Support

Mike B.

Good morning, I am an alcoholic and a member of the Parkwood Hills Group in Ottawa and have the honour and privilege of serving as your Panel 69 Self Support Chair for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International. My Name is Mike B.

Happy New Year to everyone. On February 2nd I will be visiting District 86 Kawartha via Zoom to facilitate a short Self-Support presentation at their District meeting. Thank you for the invite. I also attended the mock Pre Conference Agenda Sharing session via Zoom and will be attending another one once the date is set. I

am looking forward to participating in the Finance Pre Conference Agenda Sharing session along with our Treasurer, JoAnn on Wed Mar 18, 7 pm. Which will include, Districts 62, 78 & 22. Isn't Technology great!?

Speaking of technology, I would like to talk about The Digital Basket (digital contribution method). **What is it?** Quite simply, it is a mobile phone app (Square® app).

available on Google Play and the App Store. The system is designed to run on a tablet or smartphone and with a simple tap or a swipe, funds are directly deposited into the bank account of your choosing. Key capabilities include online payment processing, sales reports, inventory and digital receipts, as well as valuable analytics information. Some groups across Canada and the U.S. have begun adopting various digital contributions solutions and the number of groups is growing. In fact, the Intergroup Office in Ottawa has been using the Square App for over a year now to accept payments and contributions. You can find more information on the "Digital Basket" in many Box 459 articles by simply going to aa.org and entering the words, "Digital Basket" in the search bar.

Over the past number of months, I have been fielding quite a few questions from members about the Digital Basket and how it would look in their home groups. Many that I have spoken to are excited about it and also cautious at the same time about implementing it. We have entered into a mostly cashless society and this might be affecting 7th Tradition contributions at many groups. In fact, declining 7th Tradition contributions are being seen at our Area 83 Assemblies. I have included a historical table of the Hotel Fee Comparison from 2013 to 2019 in all your folders which include the percentage of 7th Tradition contributions for both the Spring and Fall Assemblies. As you can see from the table, our 7th Tradition contributions are declining at our Assemblies year after year and we are not covering the cost of the fee charged by the hotel. **What is the hotel fee all about?** The Ambassador Hotel charges us \$18.00 per person which covers much more than the cost of coffee/ tea/pop. We are not charged for the majority of our room rentals, cleaning of the atrium, staff, etc. The total of the 7th Tradition collected at the Assemblies goes toward this cost. So I ask, why are we not being Self-Supporting at our Assemblies? Is it because the members who attend the Assembly are not informed enough of what the 7th Tradition is for? Or could it be that many members are going cashless and are using debit and credit cards in their daily transactions? I believe the time has come for Area 83 to embrace the technology we have at hand and give the fellowship we serve the opportunity in supporting Area 83 through the use of the digital basket at our Assemblies.

This would also be an easy and convenient way to accept funds for purchases ie: Banquet tickets & Service Manuals could be purchased this way and still lends the opportunity for members to also contribute to the 7th Tradition in this manner if they wish. Again, many members do not carry cash these days. This gives our members the opportunity to contribute financially in another way. We ought not to be afraid to use the technology at hand today. Area 83 is already using Zoom and at the last Fall Assembly, a motion was passed to start accepting E-Transfers from groups and we already have had Pay-Pal and Credit card options on the Area 83 website for some time now. The Digital Basket seems like the natural progression of us using the technology at hand. In summary-Our membership in Alcoholics Anonymous is rapidly changing. More and more young people are joining our ranks. These younger (and older) members are already using this technology in their daily lives. It's my belief that we also need to change with the times and if what the GSO is presently doing with the technology at hand is any indication, we at Area 83 ought to be embracing it too.

Thank you to all the Districts that continue to send us your District minutes. Rest assured, I read them all. If anyone has any questions or suggestions regarding Self-Support, I can be reached at, selfsupport@area83aa.org. I am also available if you wish to invite me to any of your local Service days to give a Self-Support presentation or to your District meeting via Zoom. Please don't forget, ENTHUSIASM BREEDS ENTHUSIASM !!

Yours in Love and Service, Mike B.

G. Archives

Marty M.

Hello everyone, my name is Marty and I'm an alcoholic. I'm a member of the Open Hands group in Mississauga, District 6 and I am privileged to serve as your area Archives Chair. My apologies for not being there.

Here's what I've been up to: On Sunday November 3rd, the 35th annual GTA Archives Breakfast took place. There were 200 people in attendance. The speaker Grant gave a great talk about early AA in Toronto and the formation of the Mid-town group some 40 years ago.

The GTA Archives committee is working hard on the book; 80 years of AA in Ontario. Information is still coming in and the research team will be pressing those districts where they still lack information. There are many in Area 83 with no input thus far. These districts are; 30, 34, 36, 66, 70, 74, 78, and 82. More information is also needed from Area 86. Area's 84 and 85 seem to be good.

Linda our Archivist is tabulating the information on the Membership survey, this will be completed and released at the spring assembly in March.

I'm in the early stages of planning 2020 Area 83 Archives Workshop. This year it will be held in Ottawa. The Date set is Saturday May 30th. More information to come on that.

Yours in Love and Service, Marty

H. Service Information Day Committee Chair De R.

Hello everyone, I'm an alcoholic, member of the KF Group, District Committee Member for District 02 – Malton and have the honour and privilege of serving as your Panel 69 Service Information Day Chair and my name is De. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and happy new year!

As the Chair of the SID Committee, I recognize that at the Fall Assembly there were a few missteps, which we will correct and improve on for the Spring. Facilitators will scribe questions and answers from each workshop and forward to me to be included with the Ask-it-Basket questions and answers which was not done in the Fall. Area Officers and Committee Chairs will be emailed the Agenda with Facilitators prior to Assembly and will be given a hard copy when we meet Friday evening prior to the Open Speaker Meeting. And there will be a Big Book on the table for the Friday Open Speaker meeting.

The new surveys seemed to go over well and approximately 60-75 were handed in. We collected more detailed information about how the Workshops were presented and received as there was a rating scale for each workshop and many comments as well. The surveys were put together by Eileen and I forwarded to each of the Workshop Chairs. By most accounts, the Workshops were well-received with positive feedback. Of note, having the Accessibility and Treatment Workshops separate, although a lot more work for Shane, were especially well-received. Many of the Workshops featured panels which provided not only valuable information, but also personal experience.

No one seemed to miss the Talk-a-Thon, so again it will not appear on the Agenda. I believe the subcommittee meetings after the banquet were well attended, and in addition, our Webmaster George McQ. invited district Webmasters to meet in the Ontario East Room, and this too was well attended, so we will again announce this meeting as well as have it posted in the Atrium. There was a suggestion that the Subcommittee meetings appear on the Agenda that we will take under advisement. I think there may have been some confusion about these meetings; that they were 'additional' workshop items for instance, when I believe they are meant to be a sharing session of the Area Sub-committee Chairs with the District Sub-committee Chairs.

As far as the Spring Agenda, we have done some preliminary framework. Rob, our Delegate has contacted me with information for the Saturday Banquet Speaker who will be Coleen H., Panel 68 Delegate, Area 84 Northeastern Ontario and we look forward to hearing her speak. Terry N. has confirmed the Friday Open Speaker, and Eileen S. will contact District Committee Members to Chair Traditions, 7, 8, and 9. We will

discuss our Checklist and Workshop topics at lunch and begin reaching out to possible Chairs and look forward to continuing to plan for March.

The Facilitator Binders were updated over the summer and will only need new copies of Guidelines for each workshop. We expect to have 50 more large print Service Manuals as we sold all 50 on hand at the last Assembly.

I would like to thank everyone on the Service Information Day Committee for their hard work to date, Area Officers who presented in the Fall and Committee Chairs for their Workshops. We look forward to working with everyone once again to make the Spring Assembly a successful one.

In Love and Service, De R.

7. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Dave L.

I am an Alcoholic, a member of the Liverpool Group in District 26, Pickering and my name is Dave. I continue to enjoy serving Alcoholics Anonymous as the Registrar for Area 83. I have been so impressed with the effort and cooperation that the districts have shared with me over the last 12 months to do our part to keep each of the 574 groups in Area 83 connected to AA as a whole.

Since our Fall Assembly, I attended the Area 86 Assembly for 1 day on November 2. It was very interesting to experience a different format for an Area Assembly. I have also participated in several Zoom Meetings.

As of October 18, access by Registrars to FNV at the General Service Office was shut down. Since then, Records Department has handled all changes to the Fellowship Data via receipt of change forms from Area Registrars. Area Registrars have not received any downloads from Records Dept. since that date.

For now, all changes to Group, GSR and Alternate GSR information, should be sent to me by way of GROUP INFORMATION CHANGE FORMS (<http://area83aa.org/docs/registrar/GroupChangeForm%202019.docx>).

First phase training for Registrars on the NetSuite System will commence in early January. This will allow Registrars to view all their Area's data and run reports. The My Portal access for Registrars will be launched in multiple stages, with final deployment targeted in March 2020.

Thank you to the Districts that send me your minutes; I enjoy reading them. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to be of service. Happy New Year and lots of serenity and health for all in 2020.

Yours in Love and Service, Dave L
registrar@area83aa.org

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

JoAnn P.

Hello friends, I am an alcoholic, a member of Courtice 12 & 12 Group in District 28, and my name is JoAnn. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 83 as your Panel 69 Treasurer.

In each District's mail folder, there are two Eastern Ontario International Area 83 contribution envelopes. Please share these with your District Treasurer for future contributions. You can find several more envelopes on the side table; please help yourself. I would like to thank all Groups that provide your 6-digit Group Service Number and a return address either on the envelope, on the cheque or in an attached note. This information indicates where I will send the letter of receipt. An e-mail address is appreciated – letter of receipt can be e-mailed to your Group or District. Also, please remind groups that the address to remit contributions can be found on the Area 83 website under the About Area 83 Tab – Area Contributions. I have received contributions that have been mailed to previous Area Treasurers as far back as 3 panel terms. A quick reminder to make your contributions payable to Eastern Ontario International Area 83. I know that is a lot to write on a cheque, but it will assist greatly when depositing contributions.

To recap 2019, 321 contribution cheques from Groups and Districts have been received via the mail. Letters of receipt were issued with 90 of these letters e-mailed. 28% of the total letters were able to be e-mailed. I look forward to that percentage rising for 2020.

Today I am asking for volunteers to assist selling banquet tickets at the Spring Assembly. I happen to have a tentative schedule with me, and I would be thrilled to fill in spaces with familiar faces. If you can volunteer for one shift, please sign up on the schedule that is circulating.

After the Fall Assembly in 2019, Area 83 started accepting e-Transfer as another method of contributions. Since November, we have had 4 contributions via e-Transfer. Directions on how to complete an e-Transfer to Eastern Ontario International Area 83 area is posted on the Area 83 website. Click on the A.A. Contributions tab at the top of the webpage for information on the various ways to contribute.

Please continue to remind groups who would like to contribute using PayPal or e-Transfer to include their 6-digit Group Service Number with any electronic contributions so that the group will get credit for the contribution. So far this year, there have been 4 contributions via PayPal (January to December) and 4 using e-Transfer (November and December).

Also, in the District Committee Members mail folders, as well as the Area Committee Members folders, you will find copies of the Financial Statement as at December 31, 2019. Copies of these are also available on the side table; let's go through these numbers now.

Page 1 ([Appendix A₁](#)) is a financial summary. It shows our reserve account, which is set aside for unforeseen circumstances, has a balance of \$20,000 and is in the form of a GIC paying 1.4% interest maturing September 11, 2020.

Income for the period:

- 7th Tradition collected at the January, June and September Area Committee Meeting and the Spring and Fall Assembly = \$8,587.55
- Cost Recovery is \$1,420.00 (sale of Service Manuals and various Workbooks).
- Flow Through to General Service Office is \$400.00.
- Group and District Contributions are \$58,328.42.
- Grapevine Seasonal - \$3,837.50.

Total Income for the period is \$72,573.47.

Expenses for the period:

- Committee Expenses - \$52,152.86.
- Ad-Hoc Committee (review operating procedures) - \$125.00.
- Committee expenses are \$27,040.91.
- January, June and September Area Committee Meeting – Rent, Refreshments and Insurance is \$1,301.73.
- General Service Conference Assessment – \$11,170.14 CDN; total cost was \$8,300.00 USD.
- Bank Service Charges - \$63.43.
- PayPal fees - \$17.78.
- GSO Flow Through - \$400.00.
- Ontario Delegates Committee (ODC) - \$1,600.00
- CERAASA (Canadian Eastern Region A.A. Service Assembly) - \$3,143.53
- International Convention - \$400.00

Total expenses for the period are \$73,907.68.

To date, income is \$1,330.63 lower than expenses.

The bank balance on December 31, 2019 was \$40,490.20. As of that date, all cheques received have been processed, and letters of receipt, along with return contribution envelopes, where applicable, were mailed out.

The opening bank balance as of January 1, 2019 was \$41,820.83. Total income of \$72,573.47 less expenses of \$73,904.10 leave a balance of \$40,490.20 in the operating account as of December 31, 2019. We have \$1,330.63 less in our operating account this year compared to this time last year.

The bank reconciliation has been done and the balance in the operating account is accurate.

Page 2 ([Appendix A₂](#)) shows detail of expenses. Here we see an itemized breakdown of expenses for the period for each Area Committee Member, as well as all other expenses to date.

To clarify some of the numbers you see here:

Under Committee Expenses:

- The amount shown for Treatment/Accessibility under Literature, \$534.30, is for 2 orders purchased from GSO. Also, under Literature, Corrections amount is \$428.57 for various items (pamphlets, workbooks, etc.) purchased from GSO.
- The amount shown for Service Information Day Committee under literature is mostly Service Manuals purchased from A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) for sale at the Spring Assembly. The corresponding income from the sale of Service Manuals is listed under Cost Recoveries.
- Beside the Fall Assembly, under meals, you see \$6,897.75. This worked out to approximately \$17.25 per person which covers much more than the cost of coffee/tea/pop. We are not charged for most room rentals, cleaning of the Atrium, meeting rooms, staff, etc. In that same line under Miscellaneous, the amount of \$1,695.00 includes data projectors and the set up of the Ballroom.

Under Other Expenses:

- The General Service Conference (GSC) Assessment. At the Spring Assembly in 2007, a motion was passed stating that “provided it does not affect our prudent reserve, Area 83 will pay to GSO the full annual expense for our Delegate to attend the General Service Conference.” The cost this year for our Delegate was \$8,300.00 USD or \$11,170.14 CDN. This amount has been paid in full. Also, a note of interest regarding the GSC Assessment – the full assessment covers much more than travel and accommodation costs to attend the GSC. Other costs factored into the assessment (total costs divided by the 93 Delegate Areas) are expenses for Trustees and GSO staff to attend, meeting rooms, A/V equipment, the Conference Final Report and miscellaneous expenses.
- Ontario Delegates Committee (ODC) – Feb 28 – March 1, 2020. A deposit of \$1,200.00 was required to secure a venue for 2020. Area 83 will be the host. \$400.00 was for printing expense (flyers).
- Canadian Eastern Regional AA Service Assembly (CERAASA) – total costs to attend for our Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Immediate Past Delegate was \$2801.79. Our portion of the 2019 CERAASA shortfall was \$91.74. Also, we supplied a \$250.00 start up fund for CERAASA 2021.

At the bottom of the page is a summary comparing year to date for this year and last year for the same time period. Income is \$4,490.33 more than last year currently and expenses are up \$2,415.31. Contributions are up \$2,246.38 compared to this time last year. There have been 1 less Group contributing in comparison. The resulting net change during this 2-year period to our operating account is \$2,075.44.

Page 3 ([Appendix A₂](#)) shows contributions by District. These amounts include contributions from Districts, as well as Groups within the District. You can see that 161 Groups (total Group count 574) and 20 Districts have made financial contributions to Area 83 during 2019.

The rates for the Spring Assembly (March 27 -29, 2020) will be as follows:

Room Rates:

- Traditional, 2 Queen beds - \$125.00 + applicable taxes. A valid credit card is required to guarantee all reservations. When making reservations, contact the Ambassador Hotel at 1-800-267-7880 and quote the Group Name Spring Assembly.
- Our block of guestrooms will be held until Monday, February 17, 2020. Reservations requested after this date will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis.

Food and Beverage Prices:

- Saturday Dinner Buffet - \$40.25 per person including gratuity and tax.
- Coffee Service - \$18.00 per person including gratuity and tax.

For the Area Subcommittee chairs, please remember to quote your GSO Service Number when ordering literature from GSO and please email me that you have placed an order. Please remember to give my information as to whom to bill, and yours as to where the literature should be shipped.

In closing, thank you to the 161 Groups and 20 Districts that have made financial contributions to Eastern Ontario International Area 83 for the year ending December 31st 2019.

Yours in Love and Service, JoAnn P.

**The 7th Tradition collected for
January 4, 2020 was \$387.05.**

Questions following Treasurer's report:

QUESTION: See budget line for Chair, there is an expense for the insurance that was paid last year and the insurance costs for this year for the Area Committee meeting space.

ANSWER: It should be moved to Area Committee meeting line. The reason both of those charges are on the books for 2019 is because the 2020 insurance was paid in 2019. The Accounting system for the Area is a Cash in Cash out. It is not an accrual system of accounting.

QUESTION: Looking at the percentages of expenditure compared to Guideline limits, what do we do with those that are over spending their budgets?

ANSWER: *I don't recommend flogging....however, collectively as a group we should try very hard to stay within the spending guidelines. We rely on each member to keep track of the expenses and avoid spending in excess of their suggested limits. The collective We, well we are responsible to each other for this. This is a program based on humility and we rely on that.*

QUESTION: Will we be making a contribution to GSO this year?

ANSWER: we may do that. We do have expenses coming up because of ODC, approximately \$4500 more to come out of the budget for the ODC. When the event is over, we will have better idea of what kind of excess funds we will have. At that time we will make a decision. Note: that we have received the General Service Conference Assessment for 2020: we are committed to the full assessment \$8400 USD. That will be another \$11,000 CAD that will be paid before the end of March.

QUESTION: you said there were 4 e-transfers to the Area already, do you have any feed back on those?

ANSWER: It went over very well, without issues and I encourage all who find this method useful to take advantage of it. Everyone can feel comfortable that the transfer will go smoothly.

QUESTION: normally e-transfers require a password, how are we to do this?

ANSWER: We are auto-deposit, so no password is required. But please³ put your group service number, minimally your group name in the memo field.

QUESTION: To what email address should we send the E-transfer to?

ANSWER: my email Treasurer@area83aa.org (this can also be found on the Area 83 website, under Contributions)

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Amy L.

Good morning friends, I am a member of the Liverpool Group in Pickering in District 26 and my name is Amy. I have the privilege of serving Area 83 Eastern Ontario International as your Secretary. It is so nice to see everyone again.

As the Secretary I have been updating Area's records for the District Roster and submitting the updates through Dave L, our registrar, who is now Area 83's point person to communicate with the Records Department. Recognizing

that there are 92 other Areas who are submitting their updates this way, there is bound to be some slow-downs. The FNV went offline in October, I submitted a large number of updates mid-November and after that a few here and there as they rolled in. If you are waiting for service kits, or I know there were some who had address changes, let me know if you are still having delivery issues. I will let Dave know that we need to make those a priority.

I have also been busy with the Ad Hoc Committee rolling out the preconference sharing sessions, working with Kimberley and Sandy finishing up the Operating Procedure review and meeting with Joyce, Rob and Kimberley in preparations for the Ontario Delegates Committee meeting starting February 28th. I have been so busy that I don't know where December went, but I feel useful.

At the Assembly in October, it was brought to my attention that our Area Contact list, a list with personal details and full last names, somehow was shared beyond the members of the Area Committee. I felt terrible that someone now feels uncomfortable within the fellowship because of this mistake. Creating that list is part of the secretary's responsibilities; I am required to keep up to date and distribute on a periodic basis. I considered removing peoples addresses from the list, but it is important for districts to compare their list (including mailing details) with what is on my list. I normally try to send a contact list out before the ACMs, but I wanted to look you in the eye and tell you that I am going to send this list out this week. It will have all of the details for members of your district, and it is **Not to be Distributed to Anyone**. As mentioned, this list is to compare Area details with what the Districts have on file and it is to carry out our 12-step work. So please, do not share this file.

On that note, as always, I am grateful to be of service and if there is anything I can do to assist you or your districts, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Yours in Love and service. Amy L.

10. ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Kimberley M.

Good afternoon, I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Ajax Area Group in District 26. It is an honor to serve as your Panel 69 Alternate Delegate for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International. And my name is Kimberley. It's been a very busy last few months with lots of exciting things going on in our Area!!

The narrated version of the Concepts 4-6 Workshop that was presented at the Fall Assembly is on the Area 83 website under the Resources tab, under Alternate Delegate (<http://area83aa.org/docs/altdelegate/Concepts%204-6%20-%20recorded.mp4>). It's about 20 minutes long.

The weekend after our Fall Assembly, I attended Area 86's election Assembly weekend. Although it was nice to be a spectator, it's more fun to be involved!! As the liaison with the four Intergroups in our Area, I attended the Intergroup meetings for GTA and Lakeshore which both took place in November. While at the Lakeshore Intergroup meeting, I was invited to join an ad hoc committee to review their Operating Procedures. We have already met three times and will meet again Monday night.

I attended the Inter-Area Remote Community Workgroup which met using Zoom on September 16th and November 18th. The chair stepped down in October, so I volunteered as chair of this workgroup. There were 11 members at the November meeting from all across Canada and from Alaska. Our next meeting is on January 20th. I am looking forward to meeting the new remote community chairs that just rotated in!

Thank you to District 22 for inviting me to facilitate their District Inventory in November. I am also grateful for the opportunity later this month to facilitate inventories for District 18 and the Liverpool group.

The 10 Delegates and Alternate Delegates of Eastern Canada, together with our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee, Jan L, have met 4 times since July, as an ad hoc committee, to update the Guidelines for the Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly aka CERAASA. This has been a challenging task given that some members speak only English and some only French. Some of the Delegates and Alternates rotated on January 1st so we had to hustle to finish our task by then. We will meet again, but as a Steering Committee, on January 27th to welcome the new Delegates and their Alternates. This Steering Committee of 21 members will meet periodically to get updates on the progress of planning for the next CERAASA.

Items are continuing to be added to the items found by clicking the Did You Know button on our Area 83 website.

Rob and I have visited a total of eight Districts so far either in person or virtually. It has been a valuable two-way learning experience to connect with GSRs. Now that the holidays are over, we can look ahead and plan some more visits with any districts interested.

Since we purchased the Area Zoom account in June of 2019, there have been at least 40 scheduled meetings that have taken place. These have been sharing sessions, district visits, ad hoc committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, training sessions and workshops. If you are a member of the Area Committee and would like to set up a Zoom meeting, then contact me and we will work out the details.

Our Immediate Past Delegate, Kim S, will be hosting a “Diversity in A.A.” workshop on Monday January 13th at 7pm. Look for an email with more information to come soon. All members are welcome.

I am looking forward to participating in the Ontario Delegate Committee meeting taking place Feb 28-March 1, 2020. I have received a loving invitation to give a short presentation on the 2020 General Service Conference topic “*Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant*”. This information packed and thought-provoking weekend will be spent with members from the four Areas in Ontario. The ODC is quite different from an Assembly, the ORC or a forum. It’s a great lead up to the Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions taking place in March.

Thank you for sending me your minutes, I enjoy keeping up to date with what is going on in your districts. If I can be of service, please let me know! I am so grateful to be involved and a part of this committee and working with all of you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, with gratitude, Kimberley.

11. DELEGATE’S REPORT

Rob M.

Hi everyone. I’m an alcoholic, a member of the Motorcity Group in District 28, and my name is Rob. It’s an honour to serve as Panel 69 Delegate for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International.

Happy New Year!! I look forward to serving with all of you in 2020.

Here’s what I’ve been doing since our Fall Assembly;

November 1st – 3rd I was at the Area 86 Western Ontario election Assembly in Kitchener. It was a great weekend with our neighboring Area. November 7th was the Bring A Professional Meeting in Oshawa with Districts 26 and 28. November 9th and December 14th the Ontario Delegates Committee Meeting planning committee met. The committee consists of our Panel 65 Delegate Joyce S, our Area Secretary Amy L, our Alternate Delegate Kimberley M, and me. We have all the planning complete and hope to see all of you at the ODC.

<http://area83aa.org/resources/ontario-delegate-committee>

On November 16th I facilitated a Group Inventory for the Ajax Friday Night Group in District 26. November 17th was a safety in AA workshop on Zoom facilitated by our Panel 67 Delegate Kim S. The workshop was really well done and the highest attended Zoom session we’ve had so far.

November 27th Kimberley and I attended the District 66 meeting, and December 15th was District 26. It was nice to be invited to several District meetings last year. More communication between Groups, Districts, and Area 83 is always a good idea. In February we are scheduled to visit District 82.

As Kimberley already mentioned we have both been participating in meetings for the CERAASA guidelines ad hoc committee, and the Pre-Conference agenda sharing ad hoc Committee. More meetings of these committees are planned in January and February. <http://area83aa.org/infomation-on-aa/pre-conference-sharing-sessions/>

The January issue of Better Times, the GTA Intergroup newsletter, has an excellent article written by our Area Secretary Amy L containing more information about the ODC and the Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing.

<https://www.aatoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/JANUARY-2020-Better-Times-1.pdf>

I’ve been invited to participate in a safety in AA panel at this year’s ORC in Toronto March 20th – 22nd.

The 70th GSC takes place April 19-25 in Rye Brook NY. I have received some pre-conference material and should have the full agenda and background material on February 15th.

I have been asked to report on the GSC at info AA day on May 23rd. If other Districts plan to invite me to your Service Days please let me know the dates as soon as possible. The six service zones of Area 83 are found on page 51 of the recently amended operating procedures. I encourage Districts to continue to plan Service Days as a zone to help cut down on expenses and travel time.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Rob M.

Questions following Delegate's report:

QUESTION: the next CERASSA, where will it be?

ANSWER: Area 86 will be hosting and it will be in St. Catherines in the Holiday Inn.

- **At this point in the agenda, I would like to recommend that we move to 2/3 majority.**

Moved:	Will H. DCM District 14	All those in favour:	all
Seconded:	Trevor F.; DCM District 62	All those opposed:	0
Discussion:	none	Any abstentions:	0
		Motion:	Carried

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing

Pre-Conference Agenda Ad Hoc Committee Chair - Rob M

Hi everyone. I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Motorcity Group in District 28, and my name is Rob. It's an honour to serve as Panel 69 Delegate for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International. The Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing Ad hoc Committee has met several times and planning is almost complete. The Committee composition, scope, mandate and timing is all in my report in the September Area Committee minutes, so I won't go through it again.

**Pre-Conference
Sharing Sessions**

Full details of the Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing plan are also in the September minutes, as well as on the Area 83 website by clicking the Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing icon.

<http://www.area83aa.org/>

We ran a mock Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing session on December 1st and discovered a few hiccups. These have been addressed and a second mock session is scheduled for January 26th. All District Committee Members (DCMs) and members involved in facilitating the sessions have been invited to join this mock session. We hope that a second trial run with more members present will uncover any additional concerns that need to be addressed so the actual sharing sessions in March will run smoothly. Please mark January 26th on your calendars; we hope to see all of you then.

Our Panel 53 Delegate Roy R. and our Area Secretary Amy L. have composed a video that outlines the General Service Conference process, and the role that all members play in our Third Legacy of Service. The video will be posted to our Area 83 website and an email with a link to the video will be sent out. I encourage everyone to watch the video, share it with your General Service Representatives (GSRs), and ask them to share it with their Group members.

I want to reaffirm the important role that DCMs have in this process. Please talk this up at your Districts and make sure the GSRs know that it's their responsibility to share all this important information with their Group Members.

The more members who attend the Pre-Conference agenda sharing sessions the more informed the fellowship in Area 83 will be, and the better prepared your Delegate will be to carry the ideas and viewpoints of Area 83 to the General Service Conference.

B. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on the Area 83 Website Guidelines and Webmaster Responsibilities

Website and Webmaster Ad Hoc Committee Chair - Robb W

Hi friends, I am an alcoholic and my name is Robb. I have the honor of having served Area 83 as your Panel 61 delegate.

On December 4, 2019, the Area Chairperson, James O. struck an Ad Hoc Committee whose scope is: "to review the Area 83 Website Guidelines and the responsibilities of the Area 83 Webmaster and Alternate Webmaster".

The Ad Hoc committee comprised George McQ. (Area 83 Webmaster), David C. (Area 83 Alternate Webmaster) and me, Robb W. (Panel 61 Delegate).

We met via a Zoom video conference call on December 10th, 2019 for approximately an hour and a half. We had agreed to each review the documentation prior to the meeting and use the video conference as a time to discuss our findings and suggestions. Overall, we felt that the Website Guidelines and the Webmaster/Alternate Webmaster responsibilities were in good shape. Most of our recommendations around these documents are in the realm of house keeping. We have divided our recommendations into two sections in order that we may address each document separately.

This Ad Hoc committee recommends to the Area 83 committee the following regarding the Area 83 Website Guidelines (Appendix Seven of the Area 83 Operating Procedures)

Under the Section "Contents and Services – Describes the types of information approved for display"

➤ SECTION A SUB SECTION 1

Change the third sentence from: **"The information will be limited to materials provided by other AA entities and will also be limited to display in PDF format only."**

To: **"The information will be limited to AA related materials and will also be limited to display in PDF format only."**

➤ SECTION F

Change the wording from: **"All website visitor messages should receive a timely reply, even if nothing more than a "Thank You" for the message"**

To: **"All valid A.A. inquires through the Area 83 Website shall receive a timely response, even if it is just a "Thank you for your question" message."**

➤ SECTION G – SUB SECTION 1

Replace the first sentence in section 1: **"Group meeting information for Groups and Meetings within Area 83 with type of meeting, time and location through links to websites sponsored by bona fide A.A. service entities (Districts/Intergroups) that will be provided as a service to the website visitor (we will not publish nor be responsible for updates of individual district or intergroup meeting lists)."**

with the wording: **"Links to District websites within Area 83 with a header suggesting that meeting information may be found on these sites"**.

➤ SECTION G – SUB SECTION 2

Remove section 2 **"Area 83 District meeting information. Time and location, mailing address, and answering service telephone number."**

➤ SECTION G – SUB SECTION 3

Replace section 3 **"Area 83 Intergroups. Contact information, location and hours of operation."** with the wording: **"Links to Intergroup websites within Area 83 with a header suggesting that meeting information may be found on these sites"**

➤ **SECTION G – SUB SECTION 9**

Change section 9 from: **“Any approved Area 83 newsletter”**

To: **“Area 83 newsletters including the Delegates Newsletter and “The 83”, Area 83’s Archives newsletter”**

This Ad Hoc committee recommends to the Area 83 committee the following regarding the Area 83 Operating Procedures

➤ **SECTION 3.19 WEBMASTER AND ALTERNATE WEBMASTER**

Change the last sentence, in the second paragraph from: **“The Webmaster shall assure the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts, GSO guidelines and policies and Area 83 Website Guidelines (Appendix Seven) are followed relating to the World Wide Web.”**

To: **“The Webmaster shall ensure that the Area 83 Website is aligned with the 12 Traditions, A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (MG-18), Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Websites (SMF-101) and Area 83 Website Guidelines (Appendix Seven).”**

➤ Change the wording of the last sentence in paragraph 3 from: **“The Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster suggested to attend the Area Committee Meetings and the Area Assemblies.”**

To: **“It is suggested that the Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster attend Area 83 Committee Meetings and Area 83 Assemblies.”**

The Ad Hoc committee also had much discussion regarding the responsibility and authority that the Webmaster has been given regarding the running and maintaining of the web site. Concept IV states *“Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”*

As a committee, we were unanimous in our support of this last recommendation:

The Ad Hoc committee recommends to the Area Committee that the position of Webmaster include the right of participation and as such, the Webmaster (or in their absence, the Alternate Webmaster) be given a voice and vote at the Area Committee Meetings in Area 83 and the Area 83 Assemblies.

Should these recommendations be accepted by the fellowship, we would respectfully ask our Area Secretary to re-organize and re-number any items as required.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 83 in this capacity.

Yours in Service,

George McQ., David C., Robb W.

• **Motion to Accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committee to review the Area 83 Website Guidelines and Webmaster Responsibilities.**

Moved:	Terry N., DCM District 26
Seconded:	Jack R. DCM District 36
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would vote in favour of these recommendations, they are well thought out, and all of the information is presented. The webmaster is huge in getting the information out and available to Area 83, it should be a voting position.• Because the webmaster is an appointed position, would the position remain appointed if they were to get a vote?• If we were to change the appointed position for the webmaster, what does that do for the appointed position of the archivist?

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
AREA 83 EASTERN ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do our appointed positions of Archivist and Webmaster require that the incumbent is a member of AA? Yes, the webmaster is a member of AA; the OPs do not stipulate this as a requirement for the archivist. • For the archivist, there is the Archives Chair, with whom they can voice their opinion and issues, there is no such avenue for the Webmaster. • With regard to the portion of giving the webmaster the right of participation, would we want to consider including that they give a report to the ACM and Assembly? • I am in favour of giving the webmaster a voice at the ACM and Assembly, and if that is adopted, then we might consider the language on the last sentence in paragraph 3 not to include suggested, but <u>expected</u>. • There is some ambiguity as to the past practice of the Webmaster. In the Operating Procedures, the way they were written, in one place it says the webmaster is suggested to attend, and in another place it says they are expected to attend. What has been happening over the past two terms, the treasurer has been reimbursing the webmaster for both the ACMs and the Assembly. • There has been some benefits to having the webmaster at the assembly. Not only have they been offering tech support, George has been meeting with District Webmasters. We would have to clarify what it is that we would like to have the webmaster doing. • Do we want the webmaster (and/or alternate) to attend the ACM and Assembly, and if so we should change it so that it is expected.
Friendly amendment By Kimberley M. Alt Delegate	<p>Change “It is suggested that the Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster attend Area 83 Committee Meetings and Area 83 Assemblies.”</p> <p>“It is <u>expected</u> that the Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster attend Area 83 Committee Meetings and Area 83 Assemblies.”</p>
Acceptance of Friendly amendment	Accepted by Terry N. and Jack R.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the webmaster is going to be part of the committee. Should there not be a webmaster committee? (This hasn't been presented by the ad hoc committee, so it is not being considered). • Why do we have to make a decision here to approve information that we just received? This is the first time that we are hearing it, and it does have financial implication if we approve it. • Is the word expected appear in any of the other area officers or chair positions, and if not, why is it needed with this position? • There is a lot to consider here, and as the chair, James could table this motion to the next meeting so that we can all go back to our districts and discuss what is being considered. • If we pass this motion today, The first part, modifications to the appendix will be updated after this meeting because it does not have to go the Assembly. The 2nd and 3rd sections, will have to go to the Assembly. Even if we do approve it today. • Knowing this, would you like to table the motion?
Sense of the Room	overwhelming majority wished to table the motion.

- Motion: to **table¹ the motion to Accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committee to review the Area 83 Website Guidelines and Webmaster Responsibilities**

Motion:	Glen G., DCM District 18
Second:	Dennis M., DCM District 12

¹ Tabling a Motion: Postponing a discussion to a later time. Requires a motion and a second. Not debatable. Requires a simple majority

All those in favor:	All but 2
All those opposed:	2
Any abstentions:	0
Motion:	Carried

This motion will be on the Agenda for the June Area Committee

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding redistricting as per Section 8 of Operating Procedures

Area Secretary – Amy L

As per Section 8 of our Operating Procedures it says *at approximately the middle of every (2) two-year period, there should be a review by each District Committee Member whether there is a need for redistricting within the District in order to provide A.A. services in the best interest of the groups and members.*

What does this mean? Are you as DCM able to communicate with all of the groups in your District boundaries. This was really an important issue when AA was rapidly growing, and the number of groups in a district were growing very rapidly. There are a number of questions in Appendix 5 and Appendix 6 that should be considered. Once you have done this, I believe you will have an idea if redistricting is right for you.

If you have low participation at your district, redistricting does not work like control-alt-Delete; experience has shown that the net result are then 2 districts with low participation. One of the last times a redistricting proposal was raised in Area 83 was in 2001. I believe a lot was learned, as the proposal was turned down and subsequent to that the guidelines for redistricting were established. I know that we have a few Past Delegates who were serving in Area positions at that time and might be able to offer wisdom on the issue of redistricting.

Box 459 has a few articles on experiences from other Areas on redistricting, I recommend you look at these.

If after these deliberations, redistricting seems to be the way to go, District Committee Members should take action as stated in *The A.A. Service Manual*, the Guidelines for Creating a New District in Area 83 (Appendix Five) and the Area 83 Application for Additional District (Appendix Six). The proposed plan shall be brought to the Area Assembly for approval.

Discussion on redistricting:

- District 2 and District 4, split up on a resentment and District 4 lasted about 4-5 years and then District 4 folded with that resentment. If considering redistricting proceed with caution.
- This topic has been one that people didn't want to address at the district level for a number of terms. It was perceived that we were wanting to get rid of them. There was miscommunication and ill-feelings. The reason that we are looking at redistricting now (District 18), is because it is in our operating procedures and it has been overdue. There seems to be some confusion with our boundaries in the north. We wish to determine whether it would make sense if redistricting topic should continue or put it to bed.

B. Discussion regarding displays at the Area Assembly in Kingston District 36 DCM – Jack R

Hi I am Jack and I am an alcoholic. District committee member for District 36, Kingston and the Islands. I have been asked by James to bring up the subject of Displays at the Area Assembly. Background: Table has been set up historically for Banquet ticket sales, public information, CPC, Grapevine, and archives over the years. In particular, the Grapevine table usually was set up by the District 36 Grapevine Chair. Many years ago, pocket planners, calendars were sold or distributed there and maybe some pamphlets. At least 10 years ago some grapevine inventory and books were sold there. Each grapevine chair would pass the inventory at the end of the term to the new chair. Initially the items sold were part of the inventory purchased by District 36 Grapevine chair, for sale within the district at group anniversaries etc. As it became more popular successive grapevine chairs used their own funds to front the money to buy extra books for sale at the Assembly out of their own funds.

Most recently, Diane H, District 36's current Grapevine Chair purchased a large number of books at a discounted rate, and sold many of them at the Spring and Fall Assembly. These are books like Emotional Sobriety, Humour books, Voices of AA, Experience Strength and Hope, etc. I guess James, our chair became aware of concerns from individuals from other districts and asked Diane to shut the table down at the Fall Assembly.

The books that have been sold there are sold for cost, there is no profit going to district 36 or for Diane. Of note she is still out of a fair bit of money. Whatever happens here, I guess we need to come up with a policy so that there is no controversy in the future. Whatever happens here, I will go back to my district in January and come up with some sort of policy, so people are not out their own money for purchasing materials like this.

Discussion on Displays at the Assembly:

Why is someone out their own money. There was no policy at the district and this was something grapevine chairs took on themselves in our district. Seeing a need, at the Assemblies, people would ask, can I buy some of the books you have here.... And a pattern developed that was passed on from one chair to the next. It never became an issue at the district, and were not really aware that people were putting out their own funds for this. The district gives the GV chair, approx 300/calendar year. If they are selling lots of books at the Assembly, it would amount to more than that.

Area 83 Grapevine chair used to sell GV literature, and I am not sure I understand how District 36 got into the routine of selling literature as well?

There was a motion passed last term, that Area 83 GV chair would not be selling literature at the Assembly. However, that didn't preclude the local GV chair for facilitating grapevine product at the Assembly. As a fact, when the former District 36 Grapevine Chair was not available, they asked for support from another district, and I stepped up to help. We were facilitating the interest and demand for the Grapevine. I know that we have been a little noisy in the atrium for our sales, but I have toned it down. So long as it is not being done by the grapevine chair, I think it is up to all of us to support the grapevine, is to support it during the Area Assembly.

The discussion is about Displays, and not Grapevine specifically. The question is, if District 36 brings a display, and/or literature for purchase. Who is to say that District 48 can't bring a display? Where do we draw the line as to who can bring displays, be that PI, CPC, Grapevine etc.

I have purchased many grapevine books and always assumed it was coming from the Area. I had no idea that they were district displays.

Anyone who has been a grapevine chair, be that district, group etc, the main component of that job is selling literature, getting the word out there. I don't care if the district is selling it or the area, but I do think the literature should be at the Assembly displays. The Assembly is where we go to get information, and learning what Grapevine has to offer is what I look for and part of that education process.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON THIS ISSUE: This came up in June 1995: The DCM of Kingston and the Islands informed the committee that over the last 4 years District 36 Grapevine committee, a self-supporting entity due mainly to the sales of at such functions) was responsible for the sales and operation of the Grapevine table at Assemblies. This responsibility had been granted to District 36 by two former Area Grapevine chairs through consultation with District 36. As a matter of formalizing the issue, since the table at the Spring Assembly was the responsibility of the Area Grapevine chair, the DCM moved, seconded by the DCM of District 34: **"that District 36 be responsible for the set up and sales of the Grapevine table at future assemblies"**

Discussion around this motion:

- The Area Grapevine chair felt it is their responsibility to display all Grapevine material at Assemblies in order to enhance the popularity and sales of the material in the Area.
- Cooperation with District 36 is appreciated, with sales and manning the displays.
- Decisions made by one Area/District Grapevine chair should not tie the hands of future Area or District Grapevine chairs.
- Other districts may want to become involved.
- If a district is interested, then we should not interfere with the interest

The Area Chair read briefly from the job description of the Area Grapevine chair and pointed out that it was sufficiently vague enough to leave the decision as to whether or not sales of the material should be part of the description, as a result many felt that it should be left in the hands of the present and future Area Grapevine chairs to decide the responsibility of the Grapevine table of the Area assemblies **the motion was defeated.**

Rob M. provided some recent experience: There have been lots of occasions over the years of requests from Districts to set up tables in the Atrium at the Assembly. We have had roundups, conferences who have asked if they could set up tables and sell tickets. We have intergroup offices ask to distribute literature at the Assembly. We even had a few districts recently set up displays without asking, and we have asked them to take them down.

Unofficial policy, if we say yes to one, we have to say yes to all. *It has been the policy to say no to all.*

Just want to point out that this item on the Agenda says “Displays” but we seem to be talking only of Grapevine. In order to make a purchase through grapevine and get a discounted price, you have to spend over \$500 USD. At no point, in the last 12 months, have I had one DCM or Grapevine Chair approach me about purchasing literature other than pocket planners or wall calendars. If multiple DCMs did, I am in a position where I could make that purchase and put it in my vehicle and transport if there was an interest of making purchases from the Area Grapevine Chair.

Jack was going to make a suggestion: this is the Area Assembly, and if the Grapevine committee wanted to sell literature, they could call on District 36 as a source of volunteers.

This conversation started veering into details of selling Grapevine literature, and much removed from the Agenda Discussion items.

The Treasurer provided her input: The Area runs on contributions from the Groups. In good conscience, I don’t think the groups would want us dabbling in Grapevine futures. This is not the business of the Area. The treasurer would be opposed to this suggestion.

FURTHER BACKGROUND: 2 years ago a motion came to the Area Committee that the Grapevine chair not to sell literature, and it was passed.

Motion: that the only displays that will be set up Assembly, will be those Area chair displays.

Moved:	Neil, DCM d66
Seconded:	De R., DCM d02
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happens with the Archives room, a lot of the materials are supplied by various groups from around the Area. Many are from Toronto, but not always. The Archives chair sends out an invitation to all district Archives chairs that they may bring a district or group display for the archives room.
Friendly Amendment:	Trevor F., DCM District 62- modify the motion to specify the displays “in the Atrium”
Original motioners:	Neil P and De R. approve of the amendment
Motion: that the only displays that will be set up in the Atrium on the Assembly weekend, will be those Area chair displays.	

Friendly Amendment:	Kimberley M., Alt Delegate – specify Area Subcommittee Chairs
Original motioners:	Neil P and De R. approve of the 2 nd friendly amendment
Motion: that the only displays that will be set up in the Atrium on the Assembly weekend, will be those of the Area subcommittee chairs.	
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we not have a practice of who can and cannot bring displays to set up at the Atrium? • HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 1998: under Sharing, it was asked if the committee was going to discuss Literature sales in the Atrium at Kingston and it was decided that this is a Service Information Day committee issue and that committee should decide and advise the subcommittee chairs of their decision. • This motion does not address someone coming in to sell literature, the motion is just about displays. • Further Concern: the delegate, sometimes puts up a display on General Service Conference items, will this now not be possible? • Kim S., Immed Past Delegate: When I was the Area Chair, I was asked many times by members of AA if they could put things up in the Atrium, and for me the unwritten guideline has been this is for Area subcommittee chair displays only
All those in favour:	25
All those opposed:	5
Any abstentions:	3
Fate of Motion:	Carried (with 2/3 majority)

C. Digital Basket

Area Self Support Chair –Mike B.

I Believe I have made many of my points in my Self-Support Chair report. There have been additional questions regarding the Square® app.

First off, in a nutshell, the Square® app is a point of sale card reader that accepts funds through an Apple® or Android device through a secure App which is downloaded to that device and with a simple tap or a swipe, funds are directly deposited into the Area 83 bank account.

There are two types of Square app chip readers and their links are the “tap version” [contactless-chip-reader](#) and the swipe version [Magstrip reader](#).

Here are some of the questions that have come up.

Q How much would it cost to get such a device and how many would be needed?

A The App itself is free and can be downloaded onto any Apple or Android device. The magstrip card reader costs \$10 however, I have received one free of charge for opening a free account at the App Store. Just plug it into your device to start swiping credit cards and debit cards. The touchless reader (tap) costs around \$59.

Q how many would be needed?

A If we would go forward with this, initially, it could be used in the atrium at the table where we sell the banquet tickets and the Service manuals.

Q How secure are they?

A All card payments are encrypted from end to end similar to an E-Transfer or the same as shopping online.

Q Is there a fee for the number of times used?

A The simple answer is no. There is one rate for Interac debit, and one rate for credit cards. Here's the pricing;

2.65% –That’s per tap, dip or swipe for Visa, Mastercard, American Express and international credit cards.

10¢ –That’s a flat fee for every Interac insert and tap.

3.4% + 15¢ –That’s for every manually keyed-in and Card on File payment. (meaning, someone who doesn't have their card with them at time of purchase or contribution)

The Square service fees are taken right off the top of any 'payment or contribution'. ie: a member contributes \$100, what is seen in the bank account will be \$99 if using debit and \$97.35 if using a credit card.

Q How do you put in the amount?

A The person with the card reader would simply key in the amount on the mobile device and the payee verifies it similar to using a debit machine in a store or restaurant then inserts or taps their card in the same fashion.

Q Would that slow down passing it around?

A I would say definitely yes. See my answer in question 1," initially it could be used in the atrium at the table where we sell the banquet tickets and the Service manuals".

Q What if someone accidentally put the wrong amount and wanted the money back?

A Just like a debit machine in a store or restaurant, the money can be refunded right there on the spot.

Q Could it be used inappropriately to "steal" money from members as they walk by?

A Since there are no PIN numbers being used and this works by TAP or SWIPE, no sensitive banking info is visible when making a purchase or contribution.

In summary- This would be an easy and convenient way to accept funds for purchases ie: Banquet tickets & Service Manuals and could be a good way to accept 7th Tradition contributions from members to cover the individual hotel fees that the Area is charged. I have attached a table of the 7th Tradition contributions over the past several years dating back to 2013 and as far as contributions go, we are not "self-supporting through our own contributions" at the Assemblies. In fact, looking at the chart attached, we are going in the opposite direction when it comes to our 7th Tradition collection at the Assemblies. Individual hotel fees are going up and our 7th Tradition contributions are going down.

Many members do not carry cash these days. This gives our members the opportunity to contribute financially in another way. We ought not to be afraid to use the technology at hand today. Our membership in Alcoholics Anonymous is rapidly changing. More and more young people are joining our ranks. These younger (and older) members are already using this technology in their daily lives. It's my belief that we also need to change with the times and if what the GSO is presently doing with the technology at hand is any indication, we at Area 83 ought to be embracing it too. If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, please send them to me.

	Spring-Cost	Collected at	Actual	Percentage	Fall-Cost	Collected at	Actual	Percentage
Year	Per Member	Spring Ass	Cost	Collected	Per Member	Fall Assembly	Cost	Collected
2013	\$8.75	\$2,492.00	\$3,500.00	71%	\$8.75	\$2,036.60	\$3,500.00	58.19%
2014	\$9.00	\$2,084.85	\$3,600.00	58%	\$9.00	\$2,664.20	\$3,600.00	74.01%
2015	\$11.00	\$2,696.20	\$4,400.00	61%	\$11.00	\$3,260.76	\$4,400.00	74.11%
2016	\$13.00	\$3,199.88	\$5,200.00	62%	\$13.00	\$3,756.72	\$5,200.00	72.24%
2017	\$14.00	\$3,541.62	\$5,600.00	63%	\$14.00	\$4,123.40	\$5,600.00	73.63%
2018	\$15.00	\$3,214.30	\$6,000.00	54%	\$16.50	\$3,540.20	\$6,000.00	53.64%
2019	\$17.25	\$3,809.70	\$6,900.00	55%				
2020								

I will leave you all with this. The following was shared at the **National AA Technology Workshop in 2018**

The 12 Statements of Technology

1. We suggest implementing technology where /it supports our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers
2. We are responsible and assess value when using self-support funds for technology initiatives
3. We are responsible where anonymity is more vulnerable to a wider audience with increased speed or new sensation
4. An informed group conscience is paramount to technology decision-making
5. We strive to understand where Individual versus Group values are different
6. We perform due diligence and rely on demonstrable A.A. experience
7. We record non-technical requirements before making technology choices

8. We take care to understand the property value and legal implications of technology used for A.A. purposes before making binding decisions
9. We are responsible for transparency in discovery, process, & implementation
10. We use technology to make information available, not to limit it
11. We communicate and support the intended service level
12. We consider how best to Pass it On

Yours in Love and Service, Mike B.

Discussion following the Digital Basket report:

Questions: Who signs the merchant Agreement?

Answer: There is no merchant agreement, it is an app. You don't sign up with a bank. I downloaded the app, I put in my transit number and my bank account number. It goes right into my account.

Questions: if we are using this to sell banquet tickets, and people want receipts, that is going to make that process even longer- if you are emailing the receipts.

Answer: if we adopt this, we start in the atrium, and someone is situation right where the banquet tickets are sold.

The Area Treasurer had some comments regarding the Square App technology

As with any POS System, chargebacks, balancing issues, refunds and connectivity can be items of concern.

Square app could work for increasing 7th Tradition contributions at the Area Assembly (aka digital basket). Self Support could host a table in the atrium with 1 dedicated smart phone or tablet with the appropriate operating system and the application installed. 7th Tradition contributions could be made during the weekend using credit or debit (fees will apply).

Using Square for Treasurer related responsibilities:

Banquet Tickets / Service Manuals

We would require:

- 2 additional dedicated tablets or smart phones with compatible operating systems.
- Question: who is going to supply these items?

The Banquet Ticket Sale Process as it is Today

- Volunteers sell the banquet tickets in shifts – usually 2 per shift. There are 4 shifts on Friday and 8 shifts on Saturday.
- Cash paid for tickets and this cash is in turn deposited at the front desk various times during Friday night and Saturday afternoon. We act as the middleman in this transaction.
- At 4:00 pm Saturday – ticket sales are cut off and a number given to the hotel catering staff.
- Cash payments made over the weekend equal the number of tickets sold times the per ticket rate.
- There is no invoice to Area 83 and no cheque made out to the hotel. This does not appear on our financial records as it is a cash in and out transaction. This is the way that it has been done for many years.

If Area 83 adopted Square as an additional method of payment for Banquet Tickets it would look like this.

- If we were to pass along the fees to the members attending the banquet, we would have 4 prices for banquet tickets.
- Based on 2020 Spring Assembly price of \$40.25 per ticket we would charge the following:
 1. \$40.25 Cash
 2. \$40.35 Debit
 3. \$41.32 Credit Card
 4. \$41.77 Manually entered (magnetic strip inoperable)(Note: if we opted to have same day deposit – the square amounts would increase by 41 cents)
- Volunteers sell tickets in shifts – this could prove a challenge as each shift would have to be trained to use the app (Note: Do we get asked if we accept Debit or Credit? Yes – usually one or 2 members per shift).

- At the end of the 2 days of selling tickets, the Treasurer would have to close the batch and reconcile the transactions. This would add more work to a very short window between the Service Information Day and the banquet.

General Observations

The idea of the fees involved are problematic. For all intents and purposes, the fees look like something that we see using PayPal. The difference is that the PayPal fees are offset by a contribution to Area 83. Area 83 contributions are used to carry the message to all members in Area 83.

The hotel has not been asked if they would accept mixed payments for the banquet. This would be the Chairperson's responsibility, not the Treasurer's.

If this initiative were to include banquet tickets, there would be the need for an audit trail. As it stands today, there are no entries in our financial statements regarding the banquet.

Accepting square as a form of payment for banquet tickets is an exercise that would result in a considerable increase in the already hectic and busy weekend for the Treasurer. I know that there could be as few as 20-30 tickets (estimated 10-15 percent of all purchases) for the first Assembly, but the numbers would increase over time.

Conclusion

I am in favour of the Self Support chair bringing this initiative to the membership of Area 83 to increase Assembly 7th Tradition contributions. The fees would be an expense item, just as the PayPal fees are currently a listed line item. There could be one batch closed at a specified time and this could be reported to the Assembly attendees. As Treasurer, I would be comfortable with 1 dedicated Square app enabled device collecting 7th Tradition contributions. I am opposed to using Square for Banquet Tickets.

I have thought long and hard regarding this issue. Technology is changing today's world, but I am remiss if I do not consider the Traditions (9) and Concepts (4,5,10 & 12) regarding the Treasurer's duties. Let's keep it simple.

Motion: Table the discussion on Digital Basket in the interest of time so that we can get to the operating procedures.
Jane S., DCM District 74.

In the heat of discussion the Chair may not have clearly heard that this was a motion and said we would continue the conversation until 3.30.

- There have been times when the ATM is down at the hotel, and I could not get the money I needed for 7th.
- After hearing JoAnn's thoughts on this, I would say this isn't appropriate for the Banquet tickets.
- Let's take it back to the group level, how many times do we see members not contribute because they don't have any cash. I would like to see this as an option for the 7th.
- It isn't accurate to say that the 7th at the Assembly has gone down. From your chart, (above) The 7th has gone up, but the cost of the beverages may have gone up at a greater rate than the 7th has. The 7th hasn't gone down, and Area 83 is fully self-supporting as far as the Assembly is concerned. The 7th that we pass around is to offset the cost, but it is not that the 7th is used specifically for the Assembly. It goes into the general fund. Groups and districts in our area contribute to Area 83, and that is how we pay for our Assembly. We are fully self-supporting.
- We do have e-transfers available to us, if we feel we need an alternative way to pay a 7th, we could use this method.

● D. Motion: That Area 83 consider supporting Registration for a booth, of up to \$800, at the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians conference which will be held in Ottawa 1-4 June 2020.

Moved:	Bill C. Area CPC Chair
Seconded:	Glenn G., DCM District 18
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The details of the contact for the event are in my CPC report. They stopped in at the AA booth at the National Family Medicine Forum in Vancouver earlier this year. Touched base with GSO, and thus GSO called us. We have this invitation to participate at this meeting June 1-4, it is a 3000 registration for the booth. Jan L, our Regional Trustee, has written to all of the other Delegates in Eastern Canada to find out their interest and ability to support this. The motion in front of us, is whether Area 83 will entertain the idea of supporting up to \$800 for the booth. If this passes, then I will be in touch with our trustee, who will convey this to the other delegates in the region. Regardless of whether there is financial support for this from the Area, Jo D. and I will be approaching the organizer of the event, to make it clear to them that AA is community support. If we look at the rest of the exhibitors, they are for the most part for-profit organizations.

	<p>Question: when do we need to have a response, if it is cleared here, do we have to take to the Assembly?</p> <p>Answer: Dec 31, first deadline. Up to May 1 might be the second deadline.</p> <p>Question: How many participants will be there?</p> <p>Answer: There were 2100 registrants from the medical community for this event in 2019. They are primarily from across Canada in the north. Jo D. has prepared a team of bilingual AA members, as well as materials available in French, English, Spanish, Cree, and Inuit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation: personal experience attending these types of conferences, the amount of participants who check out the booths in pretty small. This is an expensive conference fee and might suggest that money could be better spent. These Medical professionals might be better reached locally than at this conference. • However, the cost might be offset by contributions from other Delegate Regions in Eastern Canada. • If this gives us a chance to reach the still suffering alcoholic, and that we have been contacted by GSO, we should give it considerable thought. • Would there be additional costs for getting folks to the event? • It would be minimal, and could be filled by the Area 83 chair, who is bilingual, and he could stay in my spare room. It is four days. • So, if another Area in Eastern Canada hosts this conference next year, are they going to come to our Area and ask us to contribute? Are we setting up an expensive precedent?
All those in favour:	11
All those opposed:	18
Any abstentions:	4
Fate of Motion:	Defeated
Voice of the minority:	<p>Glenn G. (district 18) This Emergency physicians-they are definitely witness to alcoholic carnage, I think this is a very important chance to make a significant connection.</p> <p>Rob M. (delegate), it is a lot of money, I agree. Remember though, when JoAnn gave her report, someone asked if we were going to be passing money on to GSO, and she said "we might". In 2017-2018 we sent thousands of dollars to GSO. Just something to think about, if Groups and districts in Area 83 are sending money to Area 83 are they sending for us to use or to pass on?</p>
Anyone reconsider their vote:	No
Motion:	Remains defeated

Point of Order: The chair did not realize during the discussion of the Digital Basket, that Jane S., had made a **motion** to Defer the Discussion to the next meeting.

He took a *Sense of the room about tabling the discussion of the Digital basket*

11 voted **to bring this discussion back** at a later date

11 voted against tabling the motion to a later date

Inconclusive: The chair will consult and see whether to bring this back again.

The Chair took a *Sense of the Room* for dealing with Items under F first since they will have to go to the Assembly for final approval. Items in section E require approval from the Area Committee only and do not require the approval of the Assembly.

E. New Additions to Operating Procedures amendments

These items were discovered after the Agenda went out. Due to their placement within the body of the Operating Procedures, and not the appendices, if approved here, will have to go to the Assembly.

● **59) 7.03 IN MEMORIAM FUND**

Change: 7.03 IN MEMORIAM FUND Upon the death of any current member of the Area Committee, a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be made **to the In Memoriam Fund at the General Service Office.**

To: 7.03 DONATION IN MEMORIAM Upon the death of any current member of the Area Committee, a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be made **to the General Service Office in memory of them.**

Motioned by:	Eileen DCM District 28
Seconded:	Rick W DCM District 30
Discussion:	GSO does not have an In Memoriam Fund
In favour:	all
Opposed:	none
Abstentions:	none
Motion:	Carried

● **60) 7.01 GENERAL**

Add: All financial values in these operating procedures and appendices shall reflect Canadian currency

Motioned by:	Jack R. DCM District 36
Seconded:	Bev H; DCM District 34
Discussion:	Rationale for putting it 7.01, is that Section 7 is all about expenses. Because we are an International Area, potentially dealing in two currencies it is important to include this reference.
In favour:	All
Opposed:	None
Abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

● **61) 3.06 Immediate Past Delegate**

Change: The Immediate Past Delegate is a voting member of the Assembly but is not eligible for any Area office and is to be reimbursed for attending the Area Assemblies, Area Committee Meetings and the first Ontario Delegates' Committee Meeting of their term.

To: The Immediate Past Delegate is a voting member of the Assembly but is not eligible for any Area office and is to be reimbursed for attending the Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings.

Delete: "and the first Ontario Delegates' Committee Meeting of their term."

Rationale: The first meeting of its kind in a Delegate's term is CERASSA, the ODC occurs in the 2nd year. Since CERASSA started up, the Immediate Past Delegate has asked for permission to attend CERASSA, because the latter is relatively new, and we had no way of knowing if it would continue to occur in the future, it had not been addressed. We thought now would be a time to address this.

Motioned by:	Will H, DCM District 14
Seconded:	Terry N, DCM District 26
Discussion:	<p>The way it is written it still encompasses the ODC as it appears in the 2nd year of their term. Alternatively, Kimberley said, we had considered removing any reference to the ODC, as there is question as to whether the Immediate Past Delegate at the ODC was needed at all. (Of course their attendance is wanted, but whether the Area should fund their expenses is questionable, since they often do not participate at all unless they are part of the Hosting Area committee.).</p> <p>Kim S., Immediate Past Delegate: I know that when I went to CERASSA I didn't do anything. My expenses were paid. However, I don't like to see the ODC removed from this, because often the Immediate Past Delegate is part of the ODC. This is a smaller pool of participants since it is a</p>

	<p>meeting of the 4 Delegate Areas in Ontario. Where CERASSA encompasses all on Eastern Canada the pool of potential participants is much bigger.</p> <p>If CERASSA goes, and there is only the ODC to prepare the Delegates, I think there is merit to have the Immediate Past Delegate to attend.</p> <p>I don't like to see Immediate past delegates get removed from ODC, because they do participate. The ODC is just 4 areas, and it has merit that they should attend.</p>	
In favour:	2	
Opposed:	27	
Abstentions:	6	
Voice of the minority	None	
Motion:	Defeated	

F. Operating Procedures Ad Hoc committee's recommendations. (Category 2 & 4)

OP Ad Hoc Committee Chair – Kimberley M

Category 2: Category 2 lists recommendations that require the approval of the Area Committee. Our Operating Procedures state in Section 9, where the Appendices begin, that "Appendices are deemed as guidelines and not operating procedures and as such are written, amended, and approved by the Area Committee not the Assembly."

As we did in September, we will go through all of the items, and if we come upon a item that you want to discuss further we will pull it. Then, all of the items where there were no issues we kept them as a batch and moved them as one motion.

8) *Introduce a hierarchical format to the Index and follow it throughout the entire (OP) document.*

The numbering system that flows throughout the document has hopefully made it much easier for you to follow along as we have gone through the Operating Procedures. We incorporated this change because it would have been impossible to have you follow along using the previous system. Since the content is not changing, we felt that this improvement does not require the Assembly's approval but should at least be approved by the Area Committee.

9) *Appendix Two: Service Information Day Committee*

Insert the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

The Area Chair will facilitate the election of the Service Information Day Committee Chair and Secretary. All members of the Service Information Day Committee interested in standing for the position of Chair and/or Secretary will place their names in a hat. The first name out of the hat will be the Service Information Day Committee Chair and the second name drawn will be the Secretary for the committee.

We understood that this has been the method used for the last several terms. Since these are guidelines, we felt it would be helpful to future committees to have this in writing.

10) *Appendix Two, Service Information Day-Workshops/Presentations*

Change:

The Area Delegate's workshop(s) generally are plenary sessions (full attendance / no other workshops scheduled).

To:

The Area Delegate's **Plenary session is the time where the Area Delegate addresses all those in attendance"**

Technically this is not a workshop, and members may not know what a "plenary" session is, so we recommend that the wording be changed so it is more clear.

11) *Appendix Two / Service Information Day / Assigning Chairpersons to workshops*

Add a footnote to clarify: An **import** is a guest who has been invited to participate and would otherwise not be attending the Area Assembly weekend.

Note: There was an Asterisk after 'import' linked to a footnote in the original version of OPs that is now missing. We recommend adding it back to the document.

12) Appendix Two, Service Information Day- Assigning Workshop Chairs

Add a footnote to clarify: "fuel expense" to be paid **at the rate provided in 7.01.**

Added for clarity and consistency

13) Appendix Two, Service Information Day-Questionnaires

Change:

They should be designed in such a way that their results will give the **committee** a better idea of what the **assembly wants....**

To:

They should be designed in such a way that their results will give the **Service Information Day committee** a better idea of what the **members want....**

This change clarifies which committee as well as correcting the statement to say "members" because the "Assembly" takes place on Sunday.

14) Appendix Two, Service Information Day-Responsibilities-Service information Day

Committee Chair **Pull for later discussion**

"Provide copies of those minutes to the members of the Service Information Day committee and Area Officers"

Note: This has not been done for the at least last few terms. So which action would we like to take? Our guidelines should reflect what we are doing.

Either: Remove "and Area Officers"

OR: Start sending the minutes of the Service Information Day committee to the Area Officers

15) Appendix Three- Procedure **Pull for later discussion**

Add: In the case of a tie for the 6th member, a vote shall be held to choose between those 2 members.

This has been verbally passed from chair to chair so we recommend it be included in these guidelines.

16) Appendix Four

Change Six to Eight in the following locations:

The Teller:

The Teller recruits the Ballot Distributors and Collectors. ~~Six~~ **Eight** people are required for this job. It is suggested that extra candidates be recruited to allow for last minute changes.

The Teller also recruits the Ballot Counters. ~~Six~~ **Eight** people are required for this job. It is suggested that extra candidates be recruited to allow for last minute changes.

One way to speed up the election of the officers is to have more counters and distributors. This arrangement has been done over the last couple of terms and has been helpful.

17) PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR AN ELECTION:

Change:

Overhead projector & screen – always there, but make sure they work

To:

Make sure that a projector (overhead or laptop projector) is available and working.

We felt that the wording needed to be updated.

18) PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR AN ELECTION:

Change:

Chairs in the Assembly hall to be arranged with four aisles (left, right and two internal) to allow for more people to distribute and collect ballots – we may need more rows to make up for the loss of 2-3 chairs per row required to make the extra aisle.

To:
Chairs in the Assembly hall to be arranged with four aisles of **6 chairs each** (left, right and two internal aisles) to allow for more people to distribute and collect ballots – we may need more rows to make up for the loss of 2-3 chairs per row required to make the extra aisle.

This has been the set up for the last few assemblies. But including it in the guidelines, it is available for the Area Chair, Elections Chair, Teller and other volunteers as reference to help them organize themselves.

19) THE RECORDER:

Change:
The Recorder is responsible for recording the names of all candidates standing for each position and displaying the list of candidates **on an overhead projector** for review by the Assembly.

To:
The Recorder is responsible for recording the names of all candidates standing for each position and displaying the list of candidates for review by the Assembly.

Updating the wording to say “displaying”, the recorder has the option of using transparencies and/or an overhead projector, or a laptop projector to display candidate’s names for the Assembly.

20) THE RECORDER:

Change:
The Recorder reviews all results with the Election Chair prior to displaying them **on an overhead projector** for review by the Assembly.

To:
The Recorder reviews all results with the Election Chair prior to displaying them for review by the Assembly.

21) SUPPLIES:

There are 6 Area Officers

Change:
Paper ballots – say a maximum of 5 ballots X **5 positions** X 250 votes per ballot = approximately 8,000 ballot forms
Note: 5 x 5 x 250 = 6250

To:
Paper ballots – ~~say~~ a maximum of 5 ballots X **6 positions** X 250 votes per ballot = approximately 8,000 ballot forms
Note: 5 x 6 x 250 = 7500

(6 positions, not 5 – once upon a time, the Registrar was elected at the ACM with the Sub Committee Chairs. This figure was never updated)

22) SUPPLIES:

Change:
Buckets for the collectors – **3 aisles** X 2 collectors each = **6 buckets** + spares

To:
Buckets for the collectors – **4 aisles** X 2 collectors each = **8 buckets** + spares

23) Election Agenda (page 37) – item 13

Change:
Introduce each one separately, in the order of election, ask each to say a few words to the Assembly.

To:
Invite the newly elected Area Officers to stand up at the front to be presented to the Assembly as a group.
This has been the practice the last couple of elections

24) C. Election Procedure- item 9

Change:
The Teller **writes** the number of ballots for each candidate on a transparency. The Teller also **shows** the total votes and the number of votes required for a 2/3 majority. At the end of the third ballot the Teller determines the number

of votes equal to one-fifth of the total and **writes** this number on the transparency. At the end of the fourth ballot, the Teller determines the number of votes equal to one-third of the total and writes this on the transparency.

To:

The Teller **displays** the number of ballots for each candidate ~~on a transparency~~. The Teller also **displays** the total votes and the number of votes required for a 2/3 majority. At the end of the third ballot the Teller determines the number of votes equal to one-fifth of the total and **displays** this number ~~on the transparency for the Assembly~~. At the end of the fourth ballot, the Teller determines the number of votes equal to one-third of the total and displays this ~~on the transparency for the Assembly~~.

25) C. Election Procedure- item 11

Change:

The Recorder reviews the results with the Election Chair and then places the transparency on the overhead projector for viewing by the Assembly

To:

The Recorder reviews the results with the Election Chair and ~~then places the transparency on the overhead projector for viewing by~~ **displays the results for** the Assembly.

26) Form for Recording Election Results

There were two forms, and the page preceding them said

Change:

The following pages contain samples of forms for:

1. The recording of the results of each ballot
2. The recording of the results of all ballots for each position

To:

The following page is a sample form for recording the results of all ballots for one position. Make a copy of this form for each position for which an election is being held.

This is the form that is typically used. And we felt the wording is more clear now.

27) Appendix Six, subsection 13

Change: What is the percent of attendance of groups?

To: What percentage of groups attend the district meetings?

28) Appendix Seven

Change:

The Website shall serve as a communications tool within the Area by providing information about Area activities and events **and will** encourage further general service participation within the Fellowship by serving as an exchange of information about opportunities for involvement in Area activities.

To:

The Website shall serve as a communications tool within the Area by providing information about Area activities and events **to** encourage further general service participation within the Fellowship. ~~by serving as an exchange of information about opportunities for involvement in Area activities.~~

We felt this wording was awkward and needs to be reworded.

29) Appendix Seven, G-9 **Delete, since Ad Hoc Web Committee will address**

CLARIFICATION

What are the approved Area 83 newsletters?

Perhaps the approved Area 83 newsletters could be listed here? What are they?

30) Appendix Seven, Administration and Maintenance, C. **Pull for later discussion**

CLARIFICATION

Mediate differences of opinion regarding the information displayed on the website and the services it provides.

This implies that the webmaster is to mediate? Is that what is meant by the statement?

31) Appendix Seven, Administration and Maintenance, D. Delete, since Ad Hoc Web Committee will address

CLARIFICATION

Give website status reports at Area 83 Assemblies and Area Committee meetings as necessary.

If the webmaster gives a status report at an Assembly, would he be reimbursed if attendance at the Assembly is suggested but not required?

32) 3.17 Service Information Day Pull for later discussion

CLARIFICATION

To ensure involvement by all members of the Area in the Service Information Day program, the Area Committee, at the beginning of its term, shall elect a standing committee to be known as the Service Information Day Committee, comprised of six (6) District Committee members.

- *Awkwardly worded?*
- *Could this be slightly reworded without changing the intent of the phrase?*
- *The intent here is to create a SID committee which best represents the group members who will be attending the Service Information Day and to create a day which will be of most benefit to these members. The DCMs have the ear of their groups so can bring their groups wishes to the preparation of the day.*

- **Motion: Approve all Category 2 items as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the Operating Procedures, except items 14, 15, 29, 30, 31, 32**

• Moved:	Eileen S., DCM District 28
Seconded:	Jack R., DCM District 36
Discussion:	None
All those in favour:	all
All those opposed:	none
Any abstentions:	none
Fate of Motion:	Carried

The remaining Category 2 recommendations (items 14, 15, 29, 30, 31, 32) as well as items in Category 4 will be tabled until June.

Sense of the Room was in favor of tabling the remaining items.

14. SHARING - WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

- Jane S., DCM District 74: once there was a meeting in Griffith, Ontario, and we are trying to figure out if it is active, and to what district it belongs to. If that meeting is in your district, can you please get in touch with me.
- Lost a long-time member this year, John W., 30+ years of sobriety, Ottawa (well known from the Valley to the French speaking parts of Ottawa).
- Ray R., celebrating 13 yrs on January 28th.
- Shane H., celebrated 13 yrs
- Jill B., District 06: Looking for group histories of woman's groups for the 80 years of AA in Ontario Book.
- CERAASA, can someone provide the difference between the ODC and CERAASA?
The ODC (Ontario Delegates' Committee) meeting is designed to prepare the 4 delegates of Ontario for the General Service Conference specifically. At the meeting Agenda items are discussed, there is an over-view of the conference for first year delegates who have not attended; goes over the schedule for the conference week and what goes on.

CERAASSA (Canadian Eastern Region AA Service Assembly) is similar to the ODC in that Agenda items for the upcoming GSC are discussed, but it is not so much preparations for the Delegates and the GSC. CERAASSA will have participants from the 10 Delegate areas across Eastern Canada Region

15. NEXT AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

I would recommend the next committee meeting be held here at Quinte West on **June 6, 2020**.

- **Would someone be willing to make a motion to that effect?**

Motioned by:	Will H., DCM District 14
Seconded:	Trevor F., DCM District 62
Discussion:	None
In favour:	all
Opposed:	none
Abstentions:	none
Motion:	Carried

Reminder:

- Motions going to the assembly need to be shared with GSRs to take back to the groups. At the group level the motions need to be discussed and voted on and then again at the district level. This will prepare GSRs and DCMs to make informed decisions at the Assembly. Ideally, everything discussed collectively at this meeting would be shared with GSRs and their groups.
- The Spring Assembly will be held at the Ambassador Conference Centre in Kingston March 27-29, 2020.

16. CLOSING

It is now 4.47 p.m. and I would like to thank everyone for their participation today and wish you all a safe drive home. I look forward to seeing you in Kingston.

- **May I have a motion to end this meeting?**

Motioned by:	Lynn E., DCM District 22
Seconded:	Rick W., DCM District 30
Discussion:	None
In favour:	all
Opposed:	none
Abstentions:	none
Motion:	Carried

The meeting closed with the Responsibility Declaration

**I AM RESPONSIBLE...
WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR
HELP, I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. ALWAYS TO BE
THERE...AND FOR THAT
I AM RESPONSIBLE.**

Appendix A₁ Financial Documents—Financial Summary

EASTERN ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AREA 83
as at December 31, 2019

RESERVE ACCOUNT		Actual
January 1, 2019 Opening Balance		20,000.00
Interest		0.00
Transfer to Operating Account		0.00
RESERVE ACCOUNT BALANCE		20,000.00

INCOME		
7th Tradition		8,587.55
Cost Recoveries		1,420.00
Flow Through to GSO		400.00
Grapevine Seasonals		3,837.50
Group & District Contributions		58,328.42
	TOTAL INCOME	72,573.47
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVE		0.00
TOTAL INCOME & TRANSFERS		72,573.47

EXPENSES		
Accommodations		9,855.65
Meals		17,933.13
Travel		13,181.30
Long Distance		0.00
Postage		220.62
Printing		3,111.95
Literature		2,670.47
Stationery		525.69
Miscellaneous		4,546.05
Total Committee Expenses		52,044.86
Ad Hoc Committees		125.00
Area Contribution to GSO		0.00
Area Committee Meetings		1,301.73
General Service Conf. Assessment		11,170.14
Bank Service Charges		63.43
Paypal fees		17.78
Forums		0.00
Grapevine Seasonal		3,637.63
GSO Flow Through		400.00
Ontario Delegate's Committee (ODC)		1,600.00
CERAASA		3,143.53
International Convention		400.00
Total Other Expenses		21,859.24
TOTAL EXPENSES		73,904.10

OPERATING ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance as of January 1, 2019		41,820.83
Total Income & Transfers		72,573.47
Total Expenses		(73,904.10)
OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE		40,490.20

Appendix A₂ Financial Documents—Detail of Expenses

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International
Details of Expenditures
as at December 31, 2019

Position	Accommodations	Meals	Travel	Long Distance	Postage	Printing	Literature	Stationery	Misc.	Total	Approved Spending Guideline	Balance +/-	YTD Usage
COMMITTEE EXPENSES													
Delegate	0.00	250.75	1421.20	0.00	0.00	339.00	0.00	28.57	0.00	2039.52	\$2,325.00	285.48	87.72%
Alt. Delegate	0.00	143.75	757.20	0.00	0.00	51.98	0.00	208.13	0.00	1161.06	\$1,651.00	489.94	70.32%
Immediate past Delegate	0.00	59.84	419.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	479.04	\$1,240.00	760.96	38.63%
Chairperson	0.00	151.65	870.40	0.00	0.00	39.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	1061.59	\$1,160.00	98.41	91.52%
Secretary	0.00	211.96	525.86	0.00	0.00	1512.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	2288.47	\$2,340.00	81.53	98.52%
Treasurer	0.00	79.00	764.08	0.00	220.62	457.97	69.79	210.80	0.00	1802.26	\$1,790.00	-12.26	100.68%
Area Web Site/Webmaster	507.70	206.97	586.86	0.00	0.00	117.73	0.00	277.29	0.00	1197.88	\$1,450.00	252.12	82.61%
Archives	222.11	313.70	781.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.99	0.00	1596.62	\$2,304.00	707.38	69.30%
Area Web Site/Webmaster	1254.62	212.70	1180.80	0.00	0.00	105.20	0.00	0.00	188.94	1911.75	\$1,355.00	-556.75	141.09%
Archivist	0.00	107.87	748.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.06	0.00	2545.49	\$540.00	-2005.49	471.39%
Cooperation with the P.C.	0.00	187.50	104.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	105.31	0.00	0.00	961.18	\$1,790.00	828.82	53.70%
Corrections Facilities	0.00	153.74	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	428.57	0.00	0.00	728.07	\$1,400.00	671.93	52.01%
Public Information	0.00	278.30	220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	363.74	\$1,400.00	1046.26	25.27%
Self Support	0.00	244.20	1129.60	0.00	0.00	83.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	488.30	\$1,400.00	901.70	35.59%
Treatment / Accessibility	0.00	79.00	754.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	534.30	0.00	609.93	2066.86	\$1,830.00	-236.86	112.94%
Service Info Day Cmte	2538.50	1237.68	1888.03	0.00	0.00	395.75	1532.50	9.03	26.00	7607.49	\$1,400.00	32.70	97.66%
Spring Assembly	2515.00	6900.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1582.00	10997.77	\$11,350.00	352.23	96.90%
Fail Assembly	2817.72	6897.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1595.00	11410.47	\$11,650.00	239.53	97.94%
TOTAL	\$ 9,855.65	\$ 17,933.13	\$ 13,181.30	\$ -	\$ 220.62	\$ 3,111.95	\$ 2,670.47	\$ 525.69	\$ 4,546.05	\$ 52,044.86	\$ 53,092.00	\$ 1,047.14	98.03%
OTHER EXPENSES													
Adhoc Committees	-	-	-	-	-	125.00	-	-	-	125.00	\$15.00	-110.00	833.33%
Area Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,301.73	1,301.73	\$1,325.00	23.27	98.24%
Area GSO Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00%
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$187.00	123.57	33.92%
Paypal Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$40.00	22.22	44.45%
Forums	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
Grapevine Seasonal	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,637.63	-	-	3,637.63	\$4,200.00	562.37	86.61%
GSC Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,170.14	-	-	11,170.14	\$11,177.64	7.50	99.93%
GSO Flow Through	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400.00	\$120.00	80.00	-333.33%
Ont Delegates Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600.00	1,600.00	\$1,200.00	-400.00	133.33%
CERAASA	1,063.86	307.56	1,264.26	-	-	-	-	-	507.85	3,143.53	\$2,892.79	0.00	108.67%
International Convention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400.00	400.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL	\$ 1,063.86	\$ 307.56	\$ 1,264.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 3,637.63	\$ -	\$ 14,579.72	\$ 21,859.24	\$ 22,417.43	\$ 1,808.83	97.51%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,919.51	\$ 18,240.69	\$ 14,445.56	\$ -	\$ 220.62	\$ 3,236.95	\$ 6,308.10	\$ 525.69	\$ 19,125.77	\$ 73,904.10	\$ 75,509.43	\$ 2,856.07	97.87%

	YTD 2019	Dec-18	Difference
Income To Date	72,573.47	68,083.14	4,490.33
Expenses To Date	73,904.10	71,488.79	2,415.31
Net Change To Operating Account - \$	1,330.63 - \$	3,405.65 \$	2,075.02
Contributions	\$58,328.42	\$58,082.04	\$2,246.38
Contributing Groups	161	162	-1
Contributing Districts	20	18	2

Income Summary :	
12/31/2019	8,587.55
7th Tradition	-
Bank Interest	400.00
GSO Flow Through	58,328.42
Contributions	1,420.00
Cost Recoveries	3,837.50
Grapevine Seasonals	-
Total Income	\$ 72,573.47

Appendix A₃ Financial Documents—Contributions by District

GROUP & DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS as at December 31, 2019

District	0	Unspecified, Paypal	\$0.00
District	2	Malton	\$512.70
District	6	Mississauga	\$3,280.73
District	10	Toronto South Central	\$6,986.66
District	12	Toronto South West	\$1,671.95
District	14	Toronto North Central	\$3,310.02
District	16	Hispano De Toronto	\$180.00
District	18	Toronto City East	\$4,096.00
District	22	Scarborough	\$2,140.00
District	26	Lakeshore West	\$3,782.49
District	28	Lakeshore East	\$2,770.45
District	30	Quinte West	\$2,817.35
District	34	Quinte East	\$6,790.00
District	36	Kingston And The Islands	\$3,165.00
District	42	St. Lawrence International	\$675.51
District	48	Seaway Valley North	\$727.00
District	50	Cornwall	\$926.82
District	54	Ottawa Rideau	\$765.00
District	58	Ottawa Bytown	\$435.00
District	62	Ottawa West	\$3,635.74
District	66	Golden Triangle	\$2,320.00
District	70	Renfrew Pontiac	\$1,800.00
District	74	Pembroke	\$1,810.00
District	78	Madawaska Valley	\$150.00
District	82	Victoria Haliburton	\$650.00
District	86	Kawartha	\$2,930.00

Total Contributions YTD: \$58,328.42

Total from Groups	\$38,543.77	161	Groups
Total from Districts	\$19,784.65	20	Districts