

# **Area 83 Eastern Ontario International**

## ***Virtual* Area Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 5, 2021**

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## Area Committee Meeting – June 5, 2021

### 1. OPENING

Good morning Friends!! I'm an alcoholic a member of the Liverpool Group in District 26 and my name is Amy. It's an honour to serve Area 83 as your Panel 71 Chair. It is so good to see everyone!

Just a couple of points relating to the technology that should be mentioned before we begin: If you are having difficulties with weak wifi connection it is suggested to turn your video off. Bottom left corner, click on the camera icon.

We are going to **disable the chat** during the meeting, but it will be turned on during the breaks. You will be able to chat to any of the Zoom Ops team, should you have any technical difficulties. Unless you have a point of order, please do not send chats to me. I want to give my full attention to chairing this meeting, so unless your comment is related to aspects of running this meeting, I would ask that you wait until the break to and reach out to me.

**Closed Captioning:** Closed captioning for this meeting is available. At the bottom of the window, click the Live Transcript Icon to see available options. If you need an accommodation to help with this or any aspects of the meeting, please message our tech team in the chat. For those who are speaking today, I would ask that you please address the committee by stating your name, position, and district before presenting your point. This is very helpful for anyone relying on Closed Captioning. If you are a fast talker, slow it down a little and note the closed captioning software cannot capture 2 voices at once. So, if someone is speaking, then you need to wait until they are done and the chair recognizes you.

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Before we start this meeting, I would like to acknowledge the loss of one of our trusted servants, Barb K who passed away on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Barb had an extensive record of giving back to Alcoholics Anonymous. She served as DCM in 1992 for District 82 as well as various positions at the Area between 1994–2008 including as our Panel 55 Delegate. Between 2011-2015 Barb had the honour to serve the fellowship as the Canada's trustee-at-large. It is sad when we see our past trusted servants leave us, but they will live on in the memories of their leadership, their wit and kindness that they have brought to the fellowship. We are so fortunate for their service and these experiences.

With that, let us take a moment of Silence for reflection, after which I will ask that you join me in reciting the Serenity Prayer.

12 Traditions read by George H., ADCM D14

12 Concepts (Short Form) read by Mike C., D06 Accessibility Chair

Welcome to our second Area Committee Meeting of our Panel 71 term. It's great to see everyone here today. 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 here 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.

Even though we are on a virtual platform, I would ask you to remain attentive to whomever is sharing. Let's be courteous to all who give reports and during motion discussion.

### Some reminders

This is a non-smoking virtual space. This includes e-cigarettes and vaping. We ask that you refrain from these things while on camera. If you feel the need to smoke or vape, please turn off your camera or wait until the break. If you chose to smoke, vape or sleep during the meeting with your camera on, do not be surprised if one of our Zoom operators turns your camera off. 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.

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

### **Area 83 Officers**

Panel 71 Delegate ..... Kimberley M.  
 Alternate Delegate ..... James O'D.  
 Secretary ..... JoAnn P.  
 Treasurer ..... Dave L.  
 Registrar ..... Bill C.  
 Panel 69 Immediate Past Delegate ..... Rob M.  
 And I am your Chair.

### **Area Sub-Committee Chairpersons**

Public Information Chair ..... Jack R.  
 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair ..... Jo D.  
 Correctional Facilities Chair ..... Marty M.  
 Treatment Chair ..... Tim F.  
 Accessibilities Chair ..... Jenny C.  
 Grapevine Chair ..... Jane S.  
 Self-Support Chair ..... Bev H.  
 Archives Chair ..... Shane H.  
 Service Information Chair ..... Trevor F.

These are your Area Officers and Sub Committee Chairs for 2021-2022

### **Introduction of Previous Delegates and those in appointed positions:**

Also, with us today we have: Panel 63 Delegate Mel C., Panel 65 Delegate Joyce S., Panel 67 Delegate Kim S.  
 And in **Appointed positions** we have Area Webmaster George McQ. and Alternate Webmaster David C.

### **Housekeeping:**

The Area committee meeting will be held three times this year and four times next year. We already met in January. The next ACM will be on September 11<sup>th</sup> on Zoom.

The Area Assembly and Service Information Day take place twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The Fall Assembly this year will be held on this virtual platform on October 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. The Business meeting for Area 83 will be on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Our meeting schedule up to and including tentative dates in 2021 will be included in the minutes. These dates are reserved on the Area Calendar, and when we resume meeting in-person will be booked in advance with the hotel and church. Some are listed as tentative as the date of the following Assembly or Area Committee Meeting

<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Where</b>
2021	September 11	Confirmed <sup>1</sup>	Area Committee Meeting	Virtual
2021	October 22-24	Confirmed	Area Assembly	Virtual
2022	January 8	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church/Virtual
2022	March 25-27	Tentative	Area Assembly	Ambassador Hotel
2022	June 4	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church
2022	September 1	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church
2022	October 28-30	Tentative	Area Assembly	Ambassador Hotel
2022	December 3	Tentative	Area Committee Meeting	Westminster United Church

is approved at the end of each meeting.

<sup>1</sup>Voted and approved at June 5, 2021 Area Committee meeting, see agenda [item 15](#) in these minutes.

The agenda for this Area Committee Meeting was sent out originally on April 23rd to DCMs and their alternates. It is sent in advance so that you can consider as your district's representative items that may require a vote.

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### **Two Items of note from the Chair:**

- 1) The Alternate Webmaster's term is coming to an end and our secretary, JoAnn sent out a call letter on May 27<sup>th</sup> with the Responsibilities for this position and a form for submitting resume details. DCM's, please share this widely. We are hoping members with the desired skill set will apply and you never know, they could be residing in a group in your district.
  - A copy of this call letter will be attached to the minutes and on the Area Website, under the [Chair's tab](#). Deadline for submitting resumes will be August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Following a meeting to debrief on this year's Preconference Agenda Sharing Sessions, an ad hoc committee has been formed to look at our past experiences with these sharing sessions and provide a framework and recommendations for a model for how this could be carried out annually. The committee is chaired by Rob M., our Immediate Past Delegate, and serving on the committee are James O'D. (Alt Delegate), JoAnn P. (Secretary), Joyce S. (Panel 65 Delegate), Jo D. (CPC chair), Kathie T. (District 28), Jonathan C-J. (District 36) and Bill C. (Registrar). We can look forward to their first report in September.

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### **Who votes?**

All Area Officers, including the immediate past Delegate, but not the Area Chair. All Area subcommittee chairs and the Area Webmaster. 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. I believe that the first part of the agenda today can be handled under simple majority. *The items under old and new 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.

At times, I may ask for a show of hands to get a 'sense of the meeting'. This is NOT a VOTE, and those with a vote may raise their hand. We will do this by clicking the green Yes button or Red NO button. We will use these buttons to gauge the feeling of the voting members.

### **VOTING:**

For anything requiring a vote we will be using the polling feature. There will be three options: For, Against and Abstain. Under Old Business and New Business, we will be trying something a little different. To ensure that those assisting, and observers will not participate in the voting, all observers will be moved into a breakout room during the vote. Once all non-Voting members are in a breakout room the poll will be launched. You may notice some people have 2 devices in the session (Secretary and Webmaster), this is strictly so that one device is designated as voting. Everyone who has a second device in the session will have their second device designated as a co-host, so they do not have the ability to vote on that device.

### **DISCUSSION/RAISING HAND:**

If you would like to address the committee (as though you were approaching the mic) to share a new perspective or ask a question, please raise your virtual hand using the RAISE HAND FUNCTION located by clicking the reactions icon or, if you are using an older version of zoom at the bottom left of the participants window. Zoom will keep people in a queue in the order in which the hands are raised.

Reminder: **IF YOUR IDEA OR COMMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED, PLEASE LOWER YOUR HAND.** Your humility and cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

### **Voice of the Minority:**

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 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 the 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 will take place under Agenda Item 14. 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 JoAnn.

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

- **Motion for simple majority**

Moved:	Maria M., DCM District 30
Seconded:	Trevor F., DCM District 62
Discussion:	none
All those in favour:	Unanimous
opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

## 2. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

**OLD BUSINESS TO BE ADDED**—None

**NEW BUSINESS TO BE ADDED**—None

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

Moved:	Tim F., A83 Treatment Chair
Seconded:	Jill B., DCM D6
Discussion	none
All those in favour:	Unanimous
opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

### 3. ROLL CALL

From the Registrar's report the attendance at the June 5, 2021 Area Committee Meeting:

Postions	Count
DCMs	19
Alt DCMs	11
Area Committee Members	16
Past Delegates	3
Visitors	12
Non-voting Area Committee Members	2
<b>Total Delegation</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>36</b>

### 4. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF January 9, 2021 ACM

Minutes of the January 9, 2021 ACM were distributed by email on January 24th to the DCMs and their Alternates and a link was included to these minutes on the agenda (link was corrupt, so approval of minutes took place after lunch).

*Are there any errors or omissions in the minutes?* –None were noted

- May I have a motion to accept the January 9, 2021 ACM minutes as distributed?**

Moved:	Bev H., Self Support Chair
Seconded:	George H., ADCM D14
Discussion	none
All those in favour:	Unanimous
opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

*\*\*Vote taken after lunch break.*

### 5. DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

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 JoAnn, our Secretary.

I will ask that members remain muted until it is time to give your report. Order of reports has been randomized thanks to Excel's RAND function. I will announce who is up and who is on deck. If you are "on deck", please be ready to give your report when the DCM before you has finished. Please clearly state your name, your position and your District when you are addressing the committee, thank you.

*Let's get started*

#### **District 02 Malton**

Good Moring my name is Patrick B. and I'm an alcoholic. It is my honour and privilege to serve as District Committee Member for District 2 Malton.

District 2 is doing well financially. We have decided to hold off on contributions to the three entities for now until Covid-19 passes. We are receiving contributions via e-transfer directly to our District 2 bank account. We have purchased our own Zoom account for District 2 so we can continue to hold our monthly business meetings virtually.

District 2 is still struggling for attendance and has since Covid hit and meetings became virtual. We only have 4 or 5 groups of the 24 reporting on a regular basis. We have only had quorum twice in the past year. We have many vacant positions and have not yet elected an Alternate District Committee Member. One of our past DCMs, Ray Richards has come back to the District Table. We are thrilled to have him.



We will continue to reach and communicate to all GSRs and subcommittee chairs in an effort to stir up enthusiasm and stress the importance of service in our district. We will keep pushing forward to keep District 2 alive.

That is all for now for District 2. Thank you.

Yours in Gratitude and Service, Patrick B.

### District 06 Mississauga

Good morning all, my name is Jill, alcoholic and a member of the Erin Mills Group and currently have the privilege to be servicing as the District Committee Member for District 6.

During the past five months, we continue to have approximately 19 of our 37 groups (or 57%) represented consistently each month. Due to access now to the Fellowship Connection we have located a registered service meeting in our District and have recently had 2 new groups register: bringing our total now to 37 groups. We do have some groups who do not attend the district; however we do maintain a Point of Contact for each group so that information can flow through to their members.

We've been challenged this term so far in filling vacant Sub-committee positions. Treatment and Self-Support chair positions remain vacant; as well as 7 of our 9 alternate Sub-committee chairs remain vacant. Both Marrey P, our Alternate District Committee Member and I are doing what we can to create some enthusiasm in the hopes of filling these positions. On a positive note, we have been able to facilitate bringing a Zoom meeting into one of the women's only treatment facilities every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. This commitment is well supported by the women from our District. As well, we've recently refilled a vacancy in the Accessibility Chair position.

Our finances are in good shape, and we recently approved and disbursed \$1,500 to the General Service Office and \$500 to Area 83. Literature purchases were approved to supply the Toronto South Detention Centre with some much need literature. Last month, the district approved the purchase of 5 of the new "Free on the Inside" Grapevine publications for the correctional facility.

During our May District meeting, we held a Service Sponsorship workshop. Many thanks from the District to Amy L, Area 83 Chair and Joyce S, Past Delegate Panel 65 for their insights and experience on being a service sponsee and a service sponsor. It was a great event, and well attended. Grateful for those from other Districts, and members of Area 83 that joined us to support the workshop.

Another successful Info AA Day was held in the GTA on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all presenters, our guest speaker Craig from the General Service Office and to Kimberley M for her Delegate's Report.

On behalf of the district, please continue to be safe and well.

Yours in love & service, Jill B

### District 10 Toronto South Central

Hi everyone. I'm an Alcoholic, my name is Ann, I'm a member of the Eglinton Park group and I'm honored to be serving as DCM for District 10, Toronto South Central.

**Overview of Groups and Participation:** Having just done a thorough review of some "dark" groups, we currently have 24 active groups, down from 27. Unfortunately, our Spanish Group has closed it's doors, another meeting switched to a Service meeting, and the third closed when the pandemic started.

We average 24 attendees at our monthly meetings, with 13 GSR's attending each month. They are all motivated, enthusiastic, and engaged, and I'm so grateful to be part of. Of the 11 groups who do not attend, there are 7 with registered GSR's who have not attended District meetings in the last 1-1.5 years and we are currently touching base to see if we can attract them to the table. More on that in the fall. Of note is one group, a newly formed group, who just joined the table in January and left in April. Between the new term and confusion of a new table, the learning curve, education workshops, pre-conference sharing, assembly, etc. it was simply too daunting for her to absorb and it's a lesson learned for us going forward to support our new table members.

On the upside, everyone is settled in nicely now, and we have good rhythm going. We modified our agenda three months ago to be more current events/issues/needs focused and it's working well. Also, we have successfully transitioned to having all GSR's sub-committee chairs and officers provide written reports to our secretary for the minutes. There is still some fine tuning to do to fit our District business comfortably into 1.5 hrs. If this can't be accomplished, we may consider changing the meeting to 2 hours, but this isn't ideal.

**People and Positions/ Service Commitments and Service Committees:**

We have only one sub-Committee position left to fill, Self-Support., and our ADCM is covering in the meantime. We are also looking for an Alternate Treatment Chair as our service commitments are ramping up with 4 of our 6 centres participating in zoom meetings now. Our groups are keen to take on more service commitments whenever we can offer them.

**Finances & District Activities:**

The D10 Operating Procedures ad hoc committee continues to work on the second phase of our manual and hope to have V2 out by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Overall, D10 is in good financial shape and District 10 is now accepting e-transfer contributions from groups and individuals.

D10 participated in Info AA Day 2021 Day, a great day with lots of information on service and opportunities as well as an excellent Delegates report presentation by Kimberley on the 2021 GSC. However, even with a lot of advertising, attendance was a huge disappointment and I've been gathering feedback from our table in hopes of learning for the future.

**Group Activities:** What do our AA meetings look like right now? 23 of 24 groups are online, with about 50+ online meetings a week. An electronic 7<sup>th</sup> is now more the norm instead of the exception in most groups who've provided feedback. Two are currently holding in-person/zoom hybrid meetings and we expect this to increase shortly.

Thank you for your time this morning and for allowing me to be of service.

Yours in Love and Service, Ann J.

**District 12 Toronto South West**

Good morning everybody, I'm an alcoholic member of The Prince Edward Group and the District Committee Member for District 12 Toronto South West and my name is Sean.

Things are doing very well at the District. We have our Alternate DCM Ed joining us today. Our District finances are in good shape. All of our sub-committees are filled which is great. We will continue to meet virtually on Zoom throughout the Summer months with our District meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of Service and thanks for my sobriety.

Yours in Love and Service, Sean K.

**District 14 Toronto North Central**

Good day everyone my name is George H. I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as Alternate District Committee member for District 14 in Area 83.

We have been busy in our district. Our positions are almost filled. We have a lot of newer people getting involved in the service structure which is wonderful. Our attendance had been running about 50 % of the district. The Southlake Hospital has opened up with zoom service for patients to have meetings.

Our District had been making contributions to GSO and AREA and INTERGROUP.

The Grapevine Chair for the GTA Scott M did an excellent presentation for our district last month. The presentation was very informative. That is all I have to report.

Yours Love in Service, George H.

**District 16 Distrito Hispano De Toronto**

Hello friends I am an alcoholic, member of the Grupo Amistad and have the honor to represent the Hispanic District 16, my name is Gregorio. This morning I would like to report that 2 of the 6 groups have open their doors for in-person meetings. Here in Toronto Grupo Amistad opened last Saturday and in Kitchener Grupo Nueva Esperanza opened a few weeks ago. These 2 groups will open more in-person meetings depending on the membership, following health precautions.

Members in District 16 prefer to meet in person and they are waiting for the restrictions due to the pandemic minimize to reunite and open more groups. We are confident that by next meeting the 6 groups will be open to offer help to the suffering alcoholic.

Yours in Love and service, Gregorio A.

**District 18 Toronto City East**

Greetings, I am an alcoholic, a member of Steps to Serenity Group, the District Committee Member for District 18, and my name is Christy F.

We participated in the annual East Toronto Archives Breakfast, Sunday, May 2 where we enjoyed a virtual tour of Stepping Stones, as well as the personal story from one of the Danforth Group members, Dorothy C. from her 59 years of sobriety. The event was a success, with over 100 people attending who had over 1500 years of collective sobriety.

We participated, as well, in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Information AA Day. This event is held each year to hear the Delegate's General Service Conference Report. It is hosted by both the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Intergroup and the 8 Districts within the GTA. It has grown over the years to have service-oriented workshops and presentations from the various service sub-committees. We were joined by a staff member from the General Service Office, Craig W., from Group Services who shared his experience, strength, and hope. We were joined by over 100 members for this full and engaging day. It was our second virtual event. We did a few new and interesting things during our planning: namely, we put our graphics through accessibilities check list that informed our design and layout. This was a new consideration and methodology for me and one that ought to inform all visual material.

Since our last ACM District 18 has grown stronger and more active. We are seeing more home groups represented at our monthly meetings yet we are just breaking 50% attendance; slow and steady progress.

We have two Sub-Committee vacancies and are otherwise well outfitted with trusted servants at the helm of our other Sub-committees. I am grateful that our officers have stepped in to cover our vacancies at the monthly GTA and Area 83 meetings take place – so our District can continue to remain informed.

We are financially fit, having sent \$450 to Area 83 and \$450 to the General Service Office. We have struck an ad hoc committee seeking out a new physical location for when we can resume in-person meetings. We lost our former location when one of our long-time groups, Golden Mile, closed. Greg R. our ADCM is leading this committee. We have written, vetted, and accepted a new set of Procedures and Guidelines. Congrats to all D18 members and ad hoc writing team in seeing this process to completion. I know I learned an incredible amount of service knowledge and history during the review and writing process. We are holding monthly informal sharing sessions for any member to attend and discuss various topics and material. Last month our ADCM presented on the first 4 Traditions. Upcoming session is to review the RoundTable material generated last year during the two sessions held by Area 83 on How to Re-Open Safely.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the members of AA in the Toronto City East District.

Yours, Christy F.

### **District 22 Scarborough**

Participation at our district table is growing. At our last meeting, ten of our now 14 active groups were present. There are 9 inactive groups; there are a number of active service meetings currently. We are gradually filling our sub- committee positions ; currently, we are lacking an Intergroup Liaison, a Public Information chair, and a Treatment Facilities chair. Gale R, our District Corrections chair is now also serving as the GTA District committee chair.

One of our GSRs ( Valerie L, Anniversary Grp) is now active as co-host for the meeting, assisting with screen sharing. We have revived our group announcement sheet, utilizing the chat function.

District 22 is financially sound, recently distributing contributions to Area83 ,and GSO.

We are beginning a discussion, initiated by Bert J (Alt DCM), of creating a website. Bert is preparing a rough draft of a website for demonstration at our upcoming District meeting.

At our last meeting, we had a lively discussion about Grapevine inventory, what to do with stock sitting unsold. This discussion seemed to touch on a broader issue of how the district is carrying its message online and off. As this discussion went on for a bit, we deferred it for continued discussion at our next meeting.

An ad-hoc committee of past DCMs- Tom S, Lynn E, and Eddie G- are diligently working on clarifying, and revising our District operating procedures.

Planning for our 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Service Day is ongoing. This year's theme is "Service Opportunities in a Time of Change". There will be presentations by our district committees, a number of workshops. Mary B (Better Times) will be speaking. The event date is Saturday, Sept 25. A flyer will be posted shortly on the GTAI website.

Pine Hills celebrated 65 Years of carrying its message of hope and recovery on May 10.

Lynn E, our immediate past DCM will be celebrating 10 years on Sat, July 3 at the Fifth Tradition Group. We welcome back the Fifth Tradition Group to its active participation at the district table after many months of absence.

Yours in service, George W.

### District 26 Lakeshore West

Good morning friends, I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Liverpool Group and my name is Ian. It is my privilege to serve as the District Committee Member for District 26, Lakeshore West.

As of last month, we have all of our service positions filled. Attendance at the table has been good, given the pandemic. Our financial position is stable.

The CPC committee and PI committee have been limited in their work due the pandemic restrictions. We are however exploring the use of Zoom in our efforts to reach out to interested parties where physical contact is currently not encouraged.

Our Service Information Day will not be held this year, but we are anticipating our Delegate Kim will give her report to the District in the near future (date to be arranged).

A number of Groups have committed to resuming interchange and a schedule is being developed and it is anticipated this will continue through the summer. Recognizing that most other Districts do not engage in interchange, where a Group comes and puts on a meeting at your group, or you do the same at another Group, we find this to be a valuable method of extending the AA family.

Overall, given our restrictions so far, we are doing well as a district. I am grateful for my sobriety and this opportunity to serve.

Yours in love and service, Ian C.

### District 28 Lakeshore East

Good morning, everyone! I'm an alcoholic, member of the Motor City Group, and my name is Kathie. It's an honour to serve as District Committee Member for District 28 Lakeshore East.

We have 20 registered groups in District 28 – ten of them are not meeting at all, and ten of them continue to meet on Zoom. A few will be re-opening for in-person meetings following all Public Health guidelines. For meeting updates, please visit Lakeshore Districts Intergroup: <https://www.aadurham.org>.

All our District positions are filled, with the exception of Archives. Our joint PI-CPC committees are actively seeking creative ways to carry our message of recovery, despite our current Covid restrictions. We are in good financial shape and meeting our District commitments.

An Ad Hoc committee was struck to create a District 28 Intergroup Liaison position. Members are currently researching how other Intergroup offices in Area 83 are structured and will be giving a progress report at our District table next week.

District 28 and District 26 will be resuming our Lakeshore Interchange meetings virtually in July. Thank you to both Alternate DCMs, James S. and Rob F., for creating and co-ordinating this schedule. Interchange is an excellent way to foster unity and communication between our two districts.

I'm really enjoying working with all our GSRs and committee chairs...have a safe and sober summer! Thank you for my sobriety.

Yours in Love and Service, Kathie T.

### District 30 Quinte West

Good morning, I am an alcoholic a member of the Hope Group. I am honoured to be serving as District Committee Member for District 30 Quinte West. My name is Maria.

District 30 is coping well in these uncertain times. Most groups are still holding their meetings virtually, there are several groups that have opened adhering to the provincial guidelines. We are hopeful that more will be opening soon as the province lifts restrictions. Attendance at the monthly District meeting has been down in the past couple of months but much enthusiasm is present by those in attendance and is exhibited by the commitment and service they do.

We now have e-transfer implemented for contributions which has improved our capability to continue fulfilling our financial responsibilities. At present we are also working on changing the answering service which has been a financial burden.

I have invited our Area Delegate Kimberley M. to give her Delegates 'Conference Report on July 25<sup>th</sup>, the time will be posted on the Area Website.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, Maria M.

### District 34 Quinte East

*(Submitted and read by the Area Secretary)*

I am an alcoholic; member of the Triangle Unity Group and my name is Inge D. I am honored to serve as your District 34 Committee Member. I apologize for not being able to attend the area 83 meeting today but here is my report.

District 34 is meeting every month on zoom and attendance by GSR's has been steady. Still empty are two committee chairs - CPC and Self Support and are working to have these two positions filled.

Our district is in sound financial shape and able to meet all our financial obligations thanks to the support of our groups and individual members.

Yours in love and service, Inge D.

### District 36 Kingston & the Islands

Good morning friends, I am an alcoholic and a member of Journey Through Recovery 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 Jonathan C.

The District is financially stable with groups continuing to contribute both to District and higher levels.

Most subcommittee positions are now filled but PIC/CPC and Grapevine are open. We have approved an Accessibilities subcommittee position and are working out the details of the responsibilities and resources for it prior to entering it in our Operating Procedures. Area Accessibilities Chair Jenny C. attended our April business meeting and answered questions about the nature of this position, which was very helpful in support of 'substantial unanimity' after a good discussion. Attendance of GSRs is averaging 65% so far this year of 26 groups and all District business meetings so far have made quorum, allowing us to move forward with the district's business. Many thanks to the GSRs who are resisting Zoom fatigue and continuing to participate!

District 36 is continuing to use the DCM's personal Zoom account for business meetings by reimbursing half the cost, rather than purchasing a district Zoom account. Our Webmaster is tasked with revising the district website meeting list to be compatible with the AA Meeting App.

Our Treatment subcommittee has brought equipment to meetings in treatment and detox centres so they can carry on a Zoom meeting with a chair and speaker from our District, using a Treatment Subcommittee Zoom account. At the moment all facilities are still in pandemic lockdown but expect to resume the hybrid meetings in a few weeks.

Our Corrections contact in Collins Bay institution is awaiting approval from the warden to allow residents the privilege of attending a meeting via Zoom. New Life Group has put their name forward as a group that would host a Zoom AA meeting with participants from Collins Bay. Scott Pringle from Collins Bay indicated that this may be an indication that Zoom meeting protocols might be in place across Canada soon.

The Pre-Conference Sharing Session on Corrections was attended by about 25 people on April 6 and generated a number of questions and suggestions.

Yours in Gratitude and Service, Jonathan C.

### District 42 St. Lawrence International

My name is Milner G., and I am an alcoholic. My home group is the Fall Island Big Book Study Group in Potsdam, New York. I am privileged to serve as District Committee Member for District 42 St. Lawrence Int'l. I am unable to be here this morning, and am relying on our Alternate DCM, Natalie N., to deliver this report.

#### **District Positions**

Most of our positions are currently filled. Our secretary recently stepped down due to health considerations, so we are actively looking for a new person to serve. Johanna L. was elected at our May D42 meeting to be our new telephone hotline coordinator.

Positions yet to be filled are: Public Information Chair, Secretary.

#### **District Status**

We are continuing to meet via Zoom on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, with 6-9 in attendance. Here are recent highlights:



- **Finances:** Our new District Treasurer, David L., is working on setting up a method for receiving electronic contributions. At our May meeting he delivered a comprehensive analysis of District finances for the past several years. He recommended a “prudent reserve” based on “essential services”.
- **Corrections:** Our Corrections Chair, Heidi C., is working on possible alternate Zoom meeting times for Women at the local county jail. She is also trying to find out if the county jail will permit inmates to “zoom” out to “regular” A.A. meetings. Ted R. and myself continue to carry the message via Zoom to the men at the jail (if any are interested on any particular week). State Correctional Facilities in Gouverneur and Ogdensburg (two) are permitting neither visitors nor in-person meetings.
- **Treatment Facilities:** Our new Treatment Chair, Brent C., is attempting to arrange Zoom meetings at the Canton-Potsdam Hospital Treatment Center. There has been turnover in the administration at the Center which might explain their lack of response to Brent’s emails. All we can do is attempt to maintain contact and offer A.A.’s message if they want it, either via Zoom or in-person meetings.
- **Website:** David L., also our webmaster, is in the final process of getting our meetings connected to the “Meeting Guide” app. He has also completed the migration of our antiquated website to a more modern WordPress site - much more easily usable to someone using a smartphone or tablet.
- **Literature/Grapevine:** Amy M., our district Lit/GV rep., is keeping us well apprised of new literature and happenings at the Grapevine.
- **Covid Status:** Most meetings are still virtual. But there are a few meeting in person, some indoors and some outside.

#### General Service Conference Agenda Topics

We are looking forward to Kimberley’s report. Thanks to the Ottawa Districts’ service day we plan to share the report on June 12.

I am grateful for the chance to serve A.A., both District 42 and in Area 83, and to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Milner G.

#### District 48 Seaway Valley North

Good morning everyone, my name is Sharon and I am grateful to be alcoholic. I belong to Kemptville Monday/Friday and am Alt DCM for district 48. District 48 does not have a DCM so I am here act in that capacity. District 48 is south of Ottawa and extends down to Prescott on the St. Lawrence, including Morrisburg, Kemptville, North Gower, Winchester and Russel.

All the in-person meetings closed during this last shut down. But this week a Morrisburg Sunday meeting opened and we are hoping to get more meetings open soon and start garden meeting immanently. District 48 had decided to take the summer off. We are struggling to get GSR’s to the district table and fill all our positions, DCM is vacant, grapevine and treatment and corrections facility and literature need new folks. We are encouraging zoomers to adopt a zoom meeting as their home group if theirs doesn’t have one.

Linda McQ gave a presentation on the history and role of the Archivist so that our members are well informed, for the assembly vote on the Archivists voice and vote.

Porch pick up of chips and literature is still happening or by postage. Local schools are being equipped with pamphlets ready for the new term. Dr surgeries are next as we are hearing there are lots of alcoholics seeking help. Financially district 48 is doing well.

In the fall we are looking to include, in our district meetings, GSR reports and a concept talk, both suggests from the DCM sharing session on how to get or GSR’s more involved.

So, in conclusion looking forward to getting more in person meetings going this summer, maybe garden meetings, and getting the message out to the still suffering alcoholic.

Love in service, Sharon

#### District 50 Cornwall – no report

#### District 54 Ottawa Rideau

Good morning everyone, I am an alcoholic and I am a member of the Search for Serenity Group in Orleans. I am privileged to serve as District Committee Member for District 54 Ottawa Rideau. My name is Kevin O.

District 54 held their 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the year this past Thursday. Good attendance and full agenda as usual. I was left with an incredibly positive feeling of how well the meeting went with good participation by all and it felt productive.

With the recent decision by District 58 to go dark, The Secular Sobriety Group reached out and joined District 54 at the table. Doris M is the group's GSR and has also stepped up and filled the Secretary position at our table. Thank you, Doris! We also welcome other Groups from District 58, we would be happy to have you join us.

Districts 54 and 62 have been busy organizing the Annual Ottawa Service Information Day being held on June 12, 2021. "The Hand of AA in Action" promises to be an exciting day about Service and features our Area 83 Delegate Kimberley M.'s report on the 71st General Service Conference. We are excited to hear about Kimberley's experience and news of what is happening in A.A. and we are looking forward to inspirational talks about Service from our local and Area Committee members and guest speakers. We invite you to join us and hope to see you there!

I am grateful and honoured to be serving as the DCM for District 54. Thank you!! Be safe and stay healthy.  
Yours in Love and Service, Kevin O.

### **District 58 Ottawa Bytown – no report**

### **District 62 Ottawa West**

I am an alcoholic, a member of the Stittsville Second Chance Group and have the honour and privilege of serving as the District Committee Member for District 62 - Ottawa West, my name is Trevor F.

District 62 currently has one vacancy at our district table, as our Alternate DCM has stepped down, so we're hoping to fill that position soon. We've had a few new groups join our district table, bringing our total number of groups up to 47. Two of these groups have moved over from District 58, which is currently not meeting. Along with District 54 and Area Officers, we've been communicating with the remaining groups in District 58 about joining either District 54 or 62 in order to keep the communication flow going from Area 83 and the General Service Office up to the groups.

Our district meetings have been on Zoom for over a year now, and we've been seeing about 20-24 groups in attendance, with 10 groups not meeting at all since Covid-19 began. Some of the groups had begun hybrid and in-person meetings, but they have since shifted back to Zoom only with gathering limits being decreased and are looking forward to safely re-opening in-person meetings soon.

Ottawa will be holding its virtual Service Day next Saturday, June 12th - we're very much looking forward to hearing our Delegate's Conference report. We invite you all to join us - the details are up on the Ottawa AA website.

In person meetings at the Ottawa Withdrawal Management Center, our local Corrections facilities and Pre-Treatment Centers are all still temporarily closed. The Ottawa Intergroup office is closed to the public as well, but they are doing curbside pickups for literature.

Financially, District 62 is stable - contributions are down but expenses are minimal. It's great to see you all today, and I very much look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

Yours in Love and Service, Trevor F.

### **District 66 Golden Triangle**

I am an alcoholic, grateful member of the Mississippi Group in Carleton Place ON. It is my honour and privilege to serve as DCM for District 66 Golden Triangle and my name is Theresa.

District 66 encompasses a large geographic area and includes 29 AA groups. Attendance at District meetings continues to hover around 30%.

The District is in sound financial shape; we recently changed banks to enable E transfer capability. The new email addresses for the District Administrative members and committee chairs are now in use.

Our District's Committee chairs have been 'zooming' with their Area counterparts at various meeting and workshops to share and learn. District 66 Committee chairs fulfill their roles with energy and enthusiasm!

Archive material is being sorted and stored on a USB. Literature, both donated and purchased, is being delivered to the Corrections Facilities. Our AA literature supply is kept well stocked and delivered whenever and wherever

needed. Our Self Support chair has paired with our Webmaster to add to and enhance District 66's website with the addition of links to pamphlets and PDF versions of the Big Book and 12 and 12. Our Webmaster has ensured that information is readily accessible; the homepage is simple and contact information is clear. The Telephone Answering Service runs smoothly; the chair ensures that the calendar is filled so that no call goes unanswered. All the latest info on Accessibility is brought to the Table on a regular basis, along with the encouragement to adopt accessibility aids at Group meetings.

Although the numbers of GSR's attending District meetings is low, those attending present detailed, comprehensive reports from their home groups, and in turn, share District and Area news and information.

Home groups are seeing healthy numbers of members, each in their own little zoom box, but connected by the kinship necessary with another alcoholic.

Yours in grateful service, Theresa L.

### District 70 Renfrew Pontiac – *no report*

### District 74 Pembroke

My name is Julie F., DCM for District 74. Groups in District 74 have continued to meet on Zoom. Participation has been sustained and members have maintained strong connections despite physical separation. At least one person from a different geographical area has joined a home group in District 74. One new group is being registered with GSO, which will bring the number of active registered groups to ten.

We are grateful to Jenny C. for joining our district committee meeting on May 15 with an informative and inspiring presentation on Accessibilities. District 74 is financially healthy and has prioritized contributions made directly to GSO.

Since gatherings are not advisable at this time, the traditional tri-district Service Information Day with neighbouring Districts 70 and 78 has been deferred to next year. Service Information on Zoom is alive and well, and we can benefit from sessions organized in other districts.

Yours in love and service, Julie F.

### District 78 Madawaska Valley

Our six groups are doing well with some holding Zoom meetings, one meeting is holding in person meetings and the others not holding meetings at all.

We unanimously decided to postpone our annual Roundup, Festival of Colours, until next year. As well, it was decided to put over the Tri-District Service Information Day with Pembroke and Renfrew until 2022. Here's hoping things will be back to some normality in the coming year.

Yours in Love and Service, Barbara C.

### District 82 Victoria Haliburton

Good morning everyone, I'm an alcoholic and a member of the High Noon Group in Lindsay and honoured to be the District Committee Member for District 82, Victoria / Haliburton and my name is Joe.

I hope everyone is well and we can soon get back to more in person meetings in the near future. As it stands now, we have 2 in person meetings open and 6 online meetings, but things seem to be heading in the right direction, so fingers crossed. I had the pleasure to attend the Virtual 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of The Caygeon Saturday night Group in Bobcaygeon in May, which was a wonderful night of old and new members sharing their stories of hope and recovery over the past half a century. Congratulations to all involved, it was a fun evening. Once again because of Covid-19 we had to cancel our annual Victoria / Haliburton Conference, but we hope to have a great line-up for May of 2022!

There have been no meetings at **Central East Correctional Centre** since the pandemic began last year, and I don't expect there will be any in the near future after hearing that there was a Covid-19 outbreak in there just a few weeks ago.

We are still doing well financially and can meet all of our obligations, I'm happy to say all of our positions at the table are full and we are still having regular monthly District Zoom meetings to help keep us up to date on District business.

Yours in Love and Service, Joe C.



## District 86 Kawartha

Good morning friends, I am an alcoholic, a grateful member of the Stonewall Group and my name is Bruce. Wow my first time as DCM for District 86 at this spring Area Committee meeting, this alcoholic is truly grateful.

District 86 has a grand table of eager trusted servants to serve, with Accessibility still open. Our coffers are good with generousness fellowship contributions, as is the case worldwide, just awesome how we pull together.

Our Intergroup primary objective, adjacent to helping the still suffering alcoholic, is to continue to put the health and wellness of our members first. That has translated into the shutdown of the majority of Intergroup meetings and consequently our literature sales are down as is reflected worldwide. It operates on a daily basis, with a fixed 'staff' checking in on phone messages, arranging no contact drop off of literature and adhering to public health recommendations. Our phone messages have changed from questions about Zoom to more Alanon type questions, concerning a loved one. One day at a time or One Covid report at a time.

A good percentage of groups have turned to the zoom platform for their meeting format and soon there will be several hybrid meetings, once our zone allows. It's hoped we can have more people attending, pick up those not attending Zoom meetings. Some groups have had Zoom 1 year medallions and celebrations, is quite emotional to be part of this. Stay tuned for the new normal.

The 59thKawartha District Conference, has come to a standstill, pending tomorrows GSR meeting. More to be revealed.

Yours in Love and service, Bruce B.

*Thank you to all those who gave reports.*

## 6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

We now come to our Area subcommittee 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 JoAnn, our Secretary.

**FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT ITEMS SHARED IN THESE REPORTS ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED WITH GSRs AT THE NEXT DISTRICT MEETING SO THEY CAN TAKE THE INFORMATION BACK TO THEIR GROUPS.**

### A. Public Information

Jack R.

Good morning, friends. I am an alcoholic and a member of the Step Stop Group from District 36 in Kingston. I am honoured with the privilege of serving as your Panel 71 Public Information Committee chair for Area 83. My name is Jack R.

I am encouraged to see great work being done in the districts getting the message out to the public in these times of transition.

I continue to attend meetings of the National PI & CPC working group. They are now planning a zoom session on July 24 for professionals and others who may be dealing with or treating alcoholics, titled 'Alcoholics Anonymous Explained' [7.24 Invitation](#) and [7.24 Event](#). They also are spearheading initiatives including tutorials to help groups and districts to become more visible by optimizing their websites for search engines.

The pre-conference agenda sharing session on April 11 went well with good attendance and stimulating ideas about the items on this year's conference agenda pertaining to Public Information. I look forward to viewing the Conference report to see what progress was made on these agenda items.

I continue to be available as a resource for your district in any capacity for your Public Information issues – we are planning another PI Chairs meeting on June 16 at 7 pm. I will send out the link again shortly.

Yours in Gratitude and Service, Jack R.

### QUESTIONS FOLLOWING PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT:

QUESTION: The A.A. *Explained* workshop on July 24th, will members of the professional community be allowed to attend and if so, can an invite be sent out?

ANSWER: Yes, members of the professional community are encouraged to attend, and I do have a flyer here if I could get that into the chat.

QUESTION: We don't currently have a PI chair, will you be sending that invite to your June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to myself, or the alternate DCM of the district in lieu of not having a PI chair?

ANSWER: I can do that. Please send me your email.

## B. Cooperation with the Professional Community Jo D.

I am an alcoholic and a member of the Search for Serenity Group in Orleans in District 54. My name is Jo D. and I am truly honoured to be serving as your Panel 71 Chair of the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) subcommittee of Area 83 Eastern Ontario International.

I am continuing to reach out to District CPC Chairs as they are identified, either from updated rosters that our Area Secretary circulates from the District Minutes which I read. The Area now has 17 CPC Chairs out of 25 Districts.

As promised at the Service Information Day (SID) on Spring Assembly weekend in March, I held a workshop on May 3rd on *"Speaking at Non-AA Events."* Because our subcommittee work is so closely aligned, I invited our Area 83 Public Information Chair, Jack R., to speak as well, along with Guy B., an Ottawa CPC volunteer who speaks to social worker classes at Ottawa University. Last week, I repeated the presentation for District 82's CPC Committee whose members were unable to attend on May 3rd. I would be happy to do the same for any other district, whether you are a committee of one or more.

I am continuing to hold quarterly meetings. I am excited for the upcoming one later this month when a member Stephen B. from District 28 will share information on a new initiative in that district, one which the rest of the Area can hop onto if all goes well. He'll also share experience on organizing a successful "bring a professional event".

In April, our Area Corrections Chair forwarded an email he'd received from a psychotherapist who sought information about AA. That doctor (who happens to be in Ottawa) and I had a 30-minute zoom meeting the outcome of which is that we were able to talk about the program of AA; I sent her a package of our literature for her and her six colleagues to hand out to patients; she has put AA "on her radar" for professional development days.

I am honoured to have been invited to participate in an Area Ad Hoc Committee on pre-conference sharing agenda sharing committee struck to further develop the model and provide an updated version in advance of the 72nd General Service Conference in 2022.

I attended the second meeting this year of the CPC North America Initiative. This is an informal forum of AAs in Canada, U.S. and now England serving CPC in some capacity - or any AA member otherwise interested in CPC to share ideas and activities. Work is progressing on the organization and planning for a virtual CPC and PI Conference on February 12 and 13, 2022. I circulated a save the date flier to everyone on the Area Committee. The conference organizing committee, of which I am secretary, has met twice. We are making progress in obtaining trustees to participate, including our two Canadian regional class B trustees, Jan L. and Irma V.

I am still attending meetings of the U.S. National PI and CPC Working Group. This working group is made up of interested AA members along with past and present PI and CPC Chairs. The primary interest is to help AA improve its message in the public sphere: the internet. The Group has organized a PI and CPC virtual Workshop for July 24 ([see PI report for links to the invitations](#)).

DCMs, I am enjoying reading all the District Minutes. I would love to attend your District CPC meetings as an observer. I hope you will encourage your CPC Chairs to contact me any time at the [CPC@area83aa.org](mailto:CPC@area83aa.org).

Yours in love and service, Jo D.

## C. Correctional Facilities Marty M.

Hello everyone, I'm a grateful alcoholic and my name is Marty. I'm a member of the Open Hands group in Mississauga, District 6 and I am privileged to serve as your area 83 Corrections Chair.

Our monthly meetings have been successful, we share ideas and it's proved to be a great way for district chairs to connect and/or request any support. We've met every month except for May. Due to personal obligations, I was not able to host a meeting in May, but I've been getting updates and reading minutes.

Some great news from District 36 in Kingston; first of all, Collins Bay Correctional institution has reached out and wants to set up a correspondence with outside members, sort of a pen pal service. Most recently our contact at

Collins Bay is awaiting approval from the warden to allow residents the privilege of attending AA meetings via Zoom. The New Life group in Kingston has put their name forward as a group that would host AA meetings on Zoom with participants from Collins Bay. Our contact also indicated that Zoom meeting protocols might be in place across Canada soon so that sounds exciting. I look forward to learning more about that.

The GTA Corrections committee is breathing some new life. This committee has not met since the pandemic started. They have a new interim chair Gail R. from District 22 along with Maire O'B. hosted a zoom meeting for the GTA Corrections earlier this week. I understand the attendance was low and unfortunately, I was not able to attend. But moving forward I plan to be there.

As I'm sure you all know; in person meetings in all Correctional Facilities is still not permitted, but we are allowed to bring in literature. So, please donate your old Grapevines to your local Corrections chair or to me. I was fortunate to send 20+ Grapevines to Quinte West and 20 + Grapevines to Ottawa thanks to donations. I want to say a special thank you to the Liverpool group in District 26, this group purchased a one-year subscription for a member incarcerated. Way 2go Liverpool. That's it for me.

Yours in Love and Service, Marty

QUESTIONS FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS REPORT:

QUESTION: If we want to get a Grapevine subscription, can we choose which Correctional Facility if we ordered through Grapevine?

ANSWER: It's better if we have the incarcerated member's name. it would go directly to that person in care of the correctional facility.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: I do want to add something I didn't add my report. **Grapevine does offer a free subscription to an incarcerated member if they themselves, write a letter to Grapevine Inc., and request it for themselves**, Grapevine has set aside a certain amount of funding for just this purpose.

## D. Treatment Facilities

Tim F.

Good morning friends, I am an alcoholic, proud member of the Freedom Group, and my name is Tim Fallis. I have the honour of serving Area 83 Eastern Ontario International as your Panel 71 Treatment Chair. I have enjoyed the opportunities I have been given in the first few months of this term. Some of those being, working with a great panel of Treatment Chairs and DCM's. Meeting and working with Treatment Chairs all over North America. I haven't been receiving near as many BTG requests as normal, but I am receiving enough to be keeping in contact with District Treatment Chairs. Enough to learn what is expected of me in this position. If anyone needs me for anything all you need to do is reach out to me. I am here to guide and more important to gain knowledge as I still have much to learn.

I have not been overly busy since the Assembly but enough to keep me engaged with the membership. I co-hosted a pre-conference agenda sharing session with Jenny at the end of March. That was followed with a wrap up meeting when all sessions were done. I hosted a Treatment Sub-Committee Meeting on April 11th. At that time, some Treatment Chairs had the opportunity to put on a couple meetings in centers just to be shut down again. Our next Sub-Committee Meeting will be held again June 27th at 7PM. For now, with little activity, we have decided quarterly is sufficient, but I am willing at anytime to run them as often as deemed needed. I attended a virtual BTG Workshop in Hawaii on April 24th that was very informative. Half the panelists were from A.A and the other half were professionals from the treatment centers.

May 22nd, I attended a North American Treatment Forum that was put together by the Treatment Chair from Area 1 Alabama. This is a quarterly meeting, and we plan to meet again August 21st. This was not well attended but for the next one a reminder will be sent out by Area 1 closer to the forum. In all honesty I had forgotten about this meeting till I received a 2-hour reminder on my phone. Things are opening up in the US and they are starting to be allowed to put on meetings in the Treatment Centers. I'm optimistic that as we get higher numbers vaccinated and get in the process of re-opening, we will be allowed to put on meetings soon. Most likely late summer or fall on a larger scale, but those are just my thoughts as someone who wants to get back to carrying the message.

I believe most of the panel would remember Larry D. who was DCM when I was Alternate DCM on Panel 67. I regret to pass along that he and his wife succumbed to Covid 19 recently. Larry passed last Sunday May 30th and his wife Norma the Wednesday prior. They had reached the milestone of 48 years of marriage on May 19th

while in the hospital during their battle with Covid. Larry will be missed by many including myself as I had the opportunity to receive his guidance. Larry had over 30 years sobriety and was an active member of Lakefield United. I pray that they continue their journey together and the family can find solace in that.

I enjoy receiving and reading District Minutes. It helps to keep me informed of what is going on in the Area and where I may be able to serve better. Thanks to the Secretaries who send me District Minutes and if you don't, please add me to your list. I am available whenever you need me, so feel free to invite me to any events taking place where I could be of assistance.

Yours in Gratitude, Love and Service, Tim F.

#### QUESTIONS FOLLOWING TREATMENT REPORT:

QUESTION: How many treatment facilities are currently offering meetings in person or online in our Area?

ANSWER: There's none in my report, there was some that were getting up and running and I believe Kingston had a couple meetings going on. Unfortunately, the only lasted about two or three weeks and then they were shut down again with the latest shutdown, which has been going on for the last couple months.

### E. Grapevine

### Jane S.

I am an alcoholic; member of the Hand of AA Group in Pembroke and my name is Jane S. It is my honour to serve Area 83 as your Grapevine Chair for Panel 71.

*At his regular Saturday night meeting, a guy walks over to a woman he has never seen there before. "Are you new here?" he asks. "Yes, this my first time," she replies. "I just got out of prison" "Welcome", he says. "What did you go to prison for?" "I murdered my husband," she replies. "Ahhhh, so your single," he says?*

Charlie F. Oakland, Calif. June 2021

What are the most scariest words a sponsee can say to their sponsor? "So, I have met someone". Lol. Do not fear in this months Grapevine spotlight is a featured section called "Dating and Relationships". AA members share stories of experience and hope regarding dating and forming true partnerships in sobriety. A must for everyone!

Due to the pandemic, I have not been able to receive an Area Grapevine Chair "kit" or any other information from AA Grapevine as of yet. I have been supported greatly by our past Grapevine Chair, Jenny as well as the Inter District Grapevine Committee, our delegate, and secretary and for this I am most grateful. Having said that, things have been busy with the AA Grapevine this past few months! I will try to highlight some of the news in this report.

We have had a few new GV reps join our committee over these past few weeks and are excited to have you join us. Our next Committee Meeting is scheduled virtually for July 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Zoom ID 918 453 6494, no password.

Two new GV books were released in April: Free on the Inside and Women in AA (Spanish language) at a cost of \$14.38cn/\$13.74cn each for 5 copies or more. Book sales are way down obviously since we are not meeting in person or holding events and we are looking for creative ways to change this trend.

2022 Pocket Planners and Calendars are now available. The cost is \$5.50 for the pocket planner and \$10.50 for the calendars (Canadian) if you place your order through Area 83. I am attaching the Order Form to this report for the DCM's [GV 2022 Bulk Order Form](#). Please take this to your District table and gather any orders from your GSR's. I would appreciate the completed order forms no later than September 1, 2021 so I can make sure we have the product available at the Fall Assembly for distribution (fingers crossed we are able to meet in person). In celebration of Founders' Day this year, the Grapevine and LaVina has made the online content FREE for EVERYONE from May 26 through June 10, 2021. You will be able to read and listen to stories from current and past issues, access our sobriety calculator, read the daily quote, learn how you can contribute your story (or photograph), and find ways to serve others using Grapevine and LaVina magazines. For Free access go to [aagrapevine.org](#) or [aalavina.org](#). This is a fantastic opportunity to see all that AA Grapevine has to offer.

I will be participating in the District 54 and 62 Virtual Service information Day on June 12, 2021 entitled "The Hand of AA in Action". Flyer below. Looking forward to this day!

The 2021 Carry the Message Project is still in full swing. It is easy to provide a subscription to those that can not afford one or for jails/ institutions. Go to our Tube Channel at [youtube.com/aagrapevine](#) and learn three easy ways to give.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of LaVina our magazine for the Spanish speaking alcoholic community! Learn more at [aalavina.org/25aniversario](http://aalavina.org/25aniversario).

Did you know you can add your events online (when we have them again) to the Grapevine online calendar? Just go to [aagrapevine.org/share](http://aagrapevine.org/share).

Should you wish to reach out to me at any time I can be reached at [grapevine@area83aa.org](mailto:grapevine@area83aa.org). Thank you all for this opportunity to serve and grow.

Grapefully Yours, Jane S.

QUESTIONS FOLLOWING GRAPEVINE REPORT:

QUESTION: I'm just wondering if you're saying those are going to be attached to your report (the order form, and the flyer), but will that report be available to us prior to the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline?

ANSWER: I can ask the Webmaster to put it on the Area 83 website and that way you can print it out.

## F. Self-Support

### Bev H.

Good afternoon. I am an alcoholic, member of Women Living Sober group in District 34 – Quinte East and I have the honour and privilege of serving as your Panel 71 Self Support Chair for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International and my name is Bev H.

After our Assembly in March, myself – along with our Area 83 Treasurer – facilitated our Pre-Conference Finance Committee Sharing Session which was held April 8. I want to thank those members of the fellowship that attended the session. Your attendance and feedback are appreciated.

I have been attending the GTA Intergroup Self-support meetings which are held the last Thursday of the month. I want to thank those members who attend and provide me with the opportunity to learn what is happening in their respective districts regarding self-support.

On May 2, I attended the Pre-Conference Debrief Session with my fellow Committee Chairs and the Executive. On May 15th, I was invited to participate in the GTA Information AA Day. I want to thank the committee for a great day of information sharing and the opportunity to present information about self-support.

I also attended the showing of the videos – How did the Pandemic Affect Alcoholics Anonymous. Thanks to Kimberley for making these available to our fellowship. It was a very insightful presentation on how our General Service Board, AA World Services and Grapevine have been able to adapt to the Pandemic and still maintain the level of service to the fellowship we have all grown accustomed to.

I have been holding self-support meetings – the first Thursday of the month with the District Chairs of Area 83. As was suggested to me, if your District does not currently have a Self-Support Chair, it is suggested that the Alt. DCM of the District attend. So having said that, I have been extending the invitation to those Alt. DCM's. We are a small group but an enthusiastic group. At our last meeting, we decided to move forward with an information session on how to best encourage members of the fellowship to volunteer for positions currently sitting empty at the district and/or group level. More information will be coming so stay tuned. It will be exciting!!!

I want to thank those districts who send me their monthly district minutes. I enjoy reading them and finding out what is happening in your respective districts. If I can be of service to any group and/or district, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to assist in any way I can.

Lastly, I would like to put forth a challenge to the fellowship of Area 83. Go back to your District and Groups and stress the importance of giving a lot of their time. Self-support ...this is the fundamental work of AA – to ensure the hand of AA will always remain outstretched, money and spirituality must continue to mix. And for that we are all responsible. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in Love and Service, Bev H.

## G. Archives

### Shane H.

Hello friends I'm an Alcoholic my name is Shane H. and am grateful to serve as your area 83 Archives Chair. First of all, I would like to thank Joyce S panel 65 Delegate for her mentoring and help with the pre-conference sharing session preparation with over 800 pages to go over it was fun as well as challenging. Also, thanks to De R of District 2 for her help as Secretary. She got the sharing word for word on paper.

I have been trying to contact our past Archivist to no avail, I saved all the info sent in by the Districts so we can get a Covid related Area 83 Archives newsletter out asap.



Planning a virtual workshop for some time in September. The idea will be to get all four of the cities that host the annual workshop, it will run for 2 and a half hours and the idea is too have presenters from Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston and Peterborough. Stay tuned for more info.

Yours in service, Shane H.

## H. Accessibilities

Jenny C.

I'm a member of the Smiths Falls Saturday night group in District 66 I am your Panel 71 accessibilities chair my name is Jenny C. I am an alcoholic.

I am unbelievably grateful to serve as your panel 71 accessibilities chair. The past few months have completely opened my mind and heart to a new way of helping the still suffering alcoholic, the responsibility declaration holds an entirely new meaning.

In the past few months there have been emails coming through and conversations about helping members who are deaf or hard of hearing and getting them set up with someone who can speak ASL and new members with Down Syndrome and how we can help them and their families to know more about alcoholism and recovery.

An email was sent out to all DCM's who do not currently have an Accessibilities chair. Some responded back saying they were linked in with treatment, and some expressed that they did not have one but were discussing it. Since then, I have been able to attend District 36 and 74 District meetings. Mainly just to discuss the role and responsibilities of an accessibilities chair. If your district is interested in a small info session at your district meeting, please send me an email. I am happy help provide any knowledge or support that I can. The important thing I believe is that people are interested and asking questions. The more we continue to talk about accessibilities the closer we get to removing any barriers that may be preventing alcoholics from getting recovery.

I was able to attend the May GTA Accessibilities intergroup meeting and I also look forward to attending and taking part in the Ottawa service information day for district 54 and 62 on June 12th.

We hold a monthly accessibilities meeting the first Thursday of every month at 8 pm. Attendance is consistent and slowly increasing. These dates are included on the area calendar for anyone that is interested in attending. We will not have one for the month of July as it falls on Canada Day.

Right now, the Area Accessibility Chairs are working together to create guidelines and procedures for "meetings to go" a guide to taking meetings to members that aren't able to attend face to face meetings – when we can hold them. This initiative was brought forward by Bert the ADCM from D 22 to the GTA Thank you Bert for starting this and getting the ball rolling. We are in the process of setting up a google file. That will allow us to share information together with out passing it all through email. Wow its amazing what you can learn through service.

Please when you have a few minutes, look at the accessibilities section on our Area 83 website. We have added some new links that will help assist members. ASL big book and 12&12 along with how to set up closed captioning on zoom.

Thanks to Shawna from D 26 for putting the YouTube video together and allowing us to add it to the area website. It gives detailed instructions for set up and key points when members are speaking so that the closed captioning can keep up. The key for this application to be most effective, which at times can be hard is to take your time and talk slow.

As always if there is anything you need or something that I can help with please reach out. The more we talk about Accessibilities the more we can understand and try to eliminate barriers. Together we can achieve great things.

### QUESTIONS FOLLOWING ACCESSIBILITIES REPORT:

QUESTION: The YouTube video on Closed captioning, is that in under your accessibilities file or where is that located in the Area website?

ANSWER: On the Area 83 website at the top you click on Resources, then it brings a page that links to most Area positions. If you click on Accessibilities, the YouTube video has been put on the website.

## I. Service Information Day Committee

Trevor F.

I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Stittsville Second Chance Group, the District Committee Member (DCM) of District 62 - Ottawa West, and currently serving as your Service Information Day Committee Chairperson, my name is Trevor F.

The Service Information Day Committee had a follow up meeting the week after the Spring Assembly to discuss the positives from the Spring Service Information Day, and the areas we need to work on for the Fall. Although the feedback was quite positive, there were definitely a few wrinkles to iron out, which will be addressed going forward.

The Survey results from surveys posted both during and after the Spring Assembly regarding the preferred format were both overwhelmingly in favour of a one-day Virtual Service Information Day for the Fall Assembly weekend. The committee will be meeting virtually next week to begin planning for the Fall Service Information Day, and we're looking forward to putting together a full day of fun and informative workshops.

Yours in love and service, Trevor F.

## J. Webmaster/Website

George McQ.

Good morning friends. I am an alcoholic, a member of the River group in District 74, having the honour, privilege and responsibility to serve as the Area 83 Webmaster. My name is George McQ.

### Visitors

The Area 83 AA website receives visitors from around the world with the bulk of them coming from Canada and the United States. We have had a total of 3,283 visitors in the first 5 months of the year. The number of visits spike around events listed on the Area 83 events page. The PCAS – Preconference Agenda Sharing session on March 21st had 410 visitors while the Spring Assembly on the 27th had 200 visitors come through the website.

### Officer & Chairs Pages

Each of the Area 83 Officers and Committee Chairs have their own webpages where they post pertinent information about their own areas. These can be accessed through the Resources menu tab. This will allow you to keep up to date on what is happening in Area 83.

### Events

The events pages are updated as information about the various events are received from AA entities within Area 83. If you would like your event listed either send me an email or use the submission form on the website found under the Events menu tab.

### Upcoming changes

The calendar and events systems are currently based on Google Calendars. Google has recently changed the way they do things and some information is not available for our events page. Changes are in the works to allow more detailed events information to be display on our webpages. This should be completed before the end of the month.

The Web pages are up, running and healthy. Please take the time to explore them.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Yours in service, George M.

## 7. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Bill C.

Good afternoon friends. I'm an alcoholic, a member of the West End Group in District 74 and my name is Bill. I have the honour and privilege to serve as your Panel 71 Registrar for Area 83, Eastern Ontario International. As Registrar, I have been entrusted with the responsibility for updating Area 83's 583 group records (this is up from 579 in March) and being the liaison with the General Service Office for matters concerning Group registration and records.

As a reminder we are now using a new database called the Fellowship Connection. This database keeps track of all of our North American Members, Groups, Districts and Areas. This new system allows the Area Registrar to make real time updates to the Area database. Area Registrars have had several training sessions to gain familiarity with managing the database.

DCM's and the Delegate were sent invitations to be able to access Fellowship Connection. The access is for read-only. This means that you can see the current records as well as download reports. A training session has been organized for July and our Alternate Delegate, James, will provide more information on this session.

I had a chance to participate in a Registrar's workshop organized by Craig W, Group Services Coordinator at the General Service Office, on the evening of 26 May 2021. At this workshop we reviewed how Fellowship Connection was working for the various Areas and provided suggestions to GSO staff based on our collective experience to date. One thing that we did discover is that the "automatic" sending of the GSR kits was not happening. If you have new GSR's who have not received a physical kit – yet – please let them know that GSO are working on the backlog. In the meantime, there are electronic versions of the kits available immediately ([https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_GSR\\_list.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf)).

Data stewardship is a vitally important aspect of any database and Fellowship Connection is no different. To ensure that Area 83 is as up to date and accurate as possible, the current listing of Groups and their DCM and A/DCM contacts for each District was sent to the respective Registrar (&/or Secretary) of the District. I would like to thank each District who has responded with updates. For those who are still working on their updates, please send them along when they are available. This is an ongoing process and another example of where the DCM access to the Fellow Connection can be used to ensure that the records in Area 83 are as current and accurate as possible.

Forms are available to notify the Registrar Group Change information or to add New Groups. These forms are available on our Area 83 website, under "Resources" then by choosing the "Registrar" tab (<https://area83aa.org/resources/area-registrar>). It is really important that all information is filled out. Highlighting all changes make it so much easier for me. Please ask that, if the District Registrar is not sending the form directly to me, that they are copied so that accurate District records can be maintained.

I would like to give a HUGE "Thank You" to the Virtual Registration Team – Taylor J and David T who were most generous with their time and assistance leading up to the Area Committee Meeting and for their cool and calm work this morning to get everyone registered. Thank you!

Before I give the [ROLL CALL](#), I would like to give a brief explanation of the process of compiling the tally. When compiling the tally, consideration is given to the vote and ensuring that those who are entitled to vote, have that right. The result being that the numbers will often look different than what you may expect for your Group or District. The goal is to ensure that the total eligible number of voices and votes are represented during the ACM.

In closing, I will make myself available to Districts and Groups to assist you with Registrar-related issues where I can, and please remember that communication is most important.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Yours in Love and Service, Bill C

## **8. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Dave L.**

Hello friends, I am an alcoholic, a member of Liverpool Group in District 26, and my name is Dave L. It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as your Panel 71 Area 83 Treasurer.

When a Group, District or Individual sends in a contribution, they will receive, in return, a thank-you letter of receipt. Emailing these to you costs the Area nothing, whereas mailing them requires a stamp, envelope, paper and ink. Please encourage your Treasurers to include an email address with your contributions, and I can email your letter of receipt. Please make your cheques payable to "Eastern Ontario International Area 83". You can find contact information on the Area 83 website: [area83aa.org](http://area83aa.org) at the top of the Home Page click "A.A. Contributions". Then click "I am an A.A. Member".

There have been 17 contributions via e-Transfer so far in 2021. This method of contributing to Area 83 is proving to be uncomplicated for the Groups. Please consider this payment method when your Group or District discusses contributing to Area 83. As with all contributions, please reference your Group and/or District Name and Service Number in the memo field. Individual contributions to a maximum of \$1000.00 per year will also be accepted. Please continue to remind groups who would like to contribute using PayPal to include their six-digit Group Service Number with any contributions using PayPal so that the group may get credit for their contribution. The place to enter the group number is the screen after entering credit card information. PayPal charges a fee of 2.9% plus 30 cents per transaction. There has been one contribution, so far, this year using PayPal.



Let's discuss the Financial Statements for the period ending May 28, 2021.

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 in the form of a GIC which matures in September 2023.

Income for the period as at May 28, 2021:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collected at the January 5<sup>th</sup> Area Committee Meeting \$170.00 & at the Spring 2021 Assembly \$1,592.00, for a total of \$1,762.00
- Group, District and Individual Contributions \$14,442.03

Total Income for the period is \$16,204.03

Expenses for the period as at May 28, 2021:

- Committee expenses are \$551.49
- Area 83 Contribution to GSO - \$5,000.00
- General Service Conference Assessment \$2,897.40 (\$2,200 US)
- Bank Service Charges \$47.45
- PayPal Fee \$4.62
- Eastern Canadian Delegates Orientation \$114.97

Total Expenses for the period are \$8,615.93

The opening bank balance at January 1, 2021 was \$41,596.93. Total income of \$16,204.03 less expenses of \$8,615.93 leaves a balance in the operating account of \$49,185.03. As of May 28, 2021, our expenses were \$7,588.10 less than our income. Thank you to the 61 Groups, 8 Districts and 1 Individual for your generous contributions to Area 83.

Page 2 [Appendix A2](#) shows details 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.

Some of the numbers you see here:

- The amount shown for the Delegate (\$227.99) relates to postage for sending Area 83 pins to General Service Conference participants.
- The amount shown for the Alternate Delegate (\$72.56) relates to ZOOM costs.
- The amount shown for the Treasurer (\$250.94) relates to postage, printing and stationery.
- A contribution to GSO from Area 83 of \$5,000 has been paid.
- The General Service Conference (GSC) Assessment. At the Spring Assembly in 2007, a motion passed stating that "provided it doesn't affect our prudent reserve, Area 83 will pay to GSO the full annual expense for our Delegate to attend the General Service Conference". The full assessment for our Delegate to attend the 2021 Virtual GSC is \$2,200.00 USD, or \$2,897.40 CDN, which has been paid in full.

To summarize, our financial position as at May 28, 2021 compared to May 2020 is as follows: Income for 2021 is \$1,302.60 less than the same period in 2020. Expenses to date for 2021 are \$12,027.93 less than the same period in 2020. The net change to the Operating Account is an increase of \$10,725.33.

The reduction of contributions in 2021 versus 2020 is \$1,611.55.

Page 3 [Appendix A3](#) shows contributions by District. These amounts include contributions from Districts, as well as Groups.

We will be collecting a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition throughout the Assembly weekend. Please e-transfer your contribution and reference Spring Assembly in the memo field. The email address is [treasurer@area83aa.org](mailto:treasurer@area83aa.org). I will group the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions and report the total at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Area Committee Meeting.

In the Spring 2020 an amount of \$1,288.25 was levied by the Ambassador Hotel as a cancellation charge for the cancelled Assembly. We will receive this amount as a credit in a future period when we are able to gather on masse.

Without in person meetings for the rest of 2021, expenses will remain low. As contributions continue to be made to Area 83, it will be possible to consider a further Contribution to the General Service Office later in the year.

At the September ACM, I will make a recommendation about a further Contribution to GSO, which can then be voted on at the Fall Assembly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 83.

Yours in Love and Service, Dave L.

QUESTION FOLLOWING TREASURER'S REPORT:

QUESTION: The \$49,185 of the reserve is that prudent reserves? If so, that's a lot of money \$50,000 sitting in a bank account.

ANSWER: We have an operating fund beyond the prudent reserve or the operating account balance, says \$49,185 and three cents. Additionally, there's a reserve of \$20,000, which is invested in a GIC maturing in September 2023. I have, based on the Spending Guidelines approved at the Spring Assembly, sent \$5,000 to the General Service Office and as I mentioned at the end of my report, I would expect that we'll be in a position to consider a more significant further amount later in the year. I will present a suggested amount at the September Area Committee meeting, which would have to be voted on the following Sunday of the Fall Assembly in October.

## 9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

JoAnn P.

Good afternoon friends, I am an alcoholic, a member of Courtice 12 & 12 in District 28 and my name is JoAnn. I have the privilege of serving Area 83 Eastern Ontario International as your Secretary for Panel 71.

Since the Spring Assembly, I have continued to update District rosters and have distributed an updated Area roster to the Area Committee. If there are any changes to information (address, phone numbers, positions) please let me know as soon as possible. Fellowship connection also interacts with Contributions and Orders for one seamless information source for the General Service Office. If the District uses position specific email addresses, please note that a personal email address is also required to ensure that the member's data is searchable even after they rotate out. And a gentle reminder that the Area roster is a confidential document and it should not be circulated. It is for your use only to aid in 12<sup>th</sup> step work.

There was a glitch in the Records Department and some of the Area Officers and Subcommittee Chairs information was not updated in a timely manner. These updates cannot be done at the Area level. Thank you to Jenny C. for alerting us that information was not going to the correct subcommittee chair. All information is now updated in Fellowship Connection. Thank you to Bill C., Area Registrar for being the point of contact.

Compiling minutes of the Area Committee Meetings and Area Assemblies is another part of my responsibilities. Please send me the reports that you are presenting today at your earliest convenience so that I can get the minutes out to you as soon as possible. If you would be so kind to send your reports in Word format, I will be appreciative. Please continue to send District minutes to the Area; I read them and enjoy keeping up to date.

I have updated the Area Operating Procedures to reflect the majority of the changes that arose from the Spring Assembly in March. One item which is outstanding is to revise section 3.20 Area Webmaster and Alternate Webmaster. The specific wording will be presented at the Area Committee meeting in September. Then, the exact wording of the voice and vote is to be presented to the Area Assembly. Our Webmaster has posted an updated version on the Area 83 Website ([area83aa.org](http://area83aa.org)) under the tab "About Area 83", click on [Operating Procedures](#). You should have received the Operating Procedures in an attachment to an email May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Area communications continue to be sent – there is always something happening at the General Service Office, General Service Board, AA World Services and AA Grapevine. We have had a busy first 5 months of Panel 71 so far regarding information forwarding and I look forward to the discussion today under New Business around flow and quantity of emails.

I have an apology to be made to this Area Committee. In April, I sent an event notice to you that was not Area related. I sincerely apologize.

If there is anything that I can do to assist you and any or all members of Area 83, please let me know. I am forever grateful to you for the opportunity to be of service.

Yours in Love and Service, JoAnn P.

## 10. ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

James O'D.

Good afternoon friends. My name is James O'D and I'm an alcoholic – proudly serving Area 83 as your Alternate Delegate. Thank you for this opportunity to serve the fellowship in this way.

**Area 83 Intergroup Liaison** – There are four Intergroup offices in our Area. I have attended the Toronto and Ottawa Intergroup monthly meetings regularly. I also had the opportunity to visit the Lakeshore Intergroup

meeting last month and hope to make this a regular monthly meeting. To my knowledge the Kawartha District Intergroup office is still closed and not holding virtual business meetings.

It was mentioned again at the GSC this year the importance of Intergroup offices and the services they provide. If you are unfamiliar with what your office does then please see the links that will be attached in my report. I am endeavouring to deepen the relationship between the General Service structure and the efforts being made on the front lines by our friends at the Intergroup offices. I am also including links to the monthly newsletters published by Toronto and Ottawa. They are packed with current information and inspiration to service.

<http://peterboroughaa.org>

<https://www.aadurham.org>

<https://ottawaaa.org>

<https://www.aatoronto.org>

### Monthly Newsletters

*Better Times* - <https://www.aatoronto.org/better-times/issue-archives/>

*Our Primary Purpose* - <https://ottawaaa.org/newsletter/our-primary-purpose-june-2021/>

**Remote Communities Liaison** – My position here allows me to chair the Inter Area Remote Communities Workgroup. We were meeting every 2 months but the group has decided to move to a monthly meeting. On May 15th I was invited by our Trustee At Large Canada – Trish I – to chair the US/Canada panel at the North/South Connections pan American remote communities project. The event was the first of its kind with three general service structures working together on one even – the general service offices of Argentina, Chile and GSO for US/Canada. The project was initiated and hosted by the Argentinian GSO to reach out to the suffering alcoholics particularly in their region 6 – Patagonia. The event included members from the bottom of Argentina (pretty much the South Pole) to our fellows living in the very far north of US and Canada. The day was full of laughs, tears and amazing technical challenges. The stories of courage in the face of extreme challenges opened my eyes to the fierce determination of our sisters and brothers getting and staying sober across the globe thanks to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. To reciprocate the invitation of the Argentinian GSO our own GSO will be hosting a similar event on December 11th. I will be reporting in as we near the event.

**DCM Sharing Sessions** – In January of this year Area 83 began to make use of this technology to establish monthly DCM sharing sessions. This is a wonderful forum for DCMs to meet and get to know one another better in between Area events. Each month a different DCM is allowed to choose a topic and present it to the group. Not only are we learning and sharing on topics that are useful to the DCM position, it is also an opportunity for the presenter to practice giving presentations and learning new skills to carry our message of recovery. Presentations so far have included: pre-conference agenda sharing training, demystifying the DCM kit, group/district inventories and coming up this month is chairing district meetings. If the DCMs agree at our meeting on Thursday, our Registrar Bill will be joining us in July to discuss the Fellowship Connection.

These sessions are designed for DCMs to share what is working, challenges and anything else affecting Districts.

Some other things that I have been doing as your Alternate Delegate:

1. Attended the 71st GSC as a zoom tech – this was my second GSC in this supporting role.
2. Member of the ad hoc committee looking at our PCAS procedures.
3. Attending monthly North American Alternate Delegate (NAAD) meetings held on the first of every month. One of the highlights is how areas are using hybrid technology. Several are already holding hybrid ACMs and Assemblies and plan on continuing to do so once things return to “normal”. Any info I receive is being forwarded to our Chair for her review.
4. Attending bi-monthly CERAASA meetings. Our Delegate will be discussing this item in new business at great length (agenda item 13 d). This will also include discussion about the ODC (Ontario Delegate Committee) meeting possibly morphing and being absorbed into the CERAASA – odd/virtual and even/in person.
5. Facilitated a group inventory for a group in D10. I am available for any group or district inventory.
6. Appreciate receiving District minutes.

Thank you for allowing me to serve our fellowship and particularly Area 83 as your Alternate Delegate.

### QUESTIONS FOLLOWING ALTERNATE DELEGATE’S REPORT:

QUESTION: The monthly DCM sharing sessions that are being held. On average, how many attendees?

ANSWER: I think about 19. It is a great turnout. Also, in the group decided to invite the Alternate DCMs. So, it's probably more than 19.

QUESTION: The Intergroup liaison, is that normally part of the Alternate Delegate's responsibility?

ANSWER: Yes.

## **11. DELEGATE'S REPORT**

**Kimberley M.**

Good afternoon, I'm an alcoholic, a member of the Ajax Area Group in District 26, and my name is Kimberley M. It is a privilege to serve as your panel 71 Delegate for Area 83 Eastern Ontario.

It has been a busy few months. Since the Assembly I spent much of my free time getting ready for the 71st General Service Conference which took place virtually from April 18-24, 2021. Thank you once again to all members of Area 83 for your time and effort in preparing me for the Conference. Knowing how you felt about many of the agenda items really helped during the discussion and voting process.

The main focus of the Conference is on the deliberations of each of the 13 Conference committees. It is during committee meetings that most of the Conference work is done. Conference committees discuss numerous issues of interest to the Fellowship as a whole, and come up with recommendations, some of which result in Conference Advisory Actions.

I attended all but one of the Pre Conference Agenda Sharing (PCAS) sessions. Last year 152 participants joined the sessions compared to 271 this year. That is almost an 80% increase!! Hopefully as time goes on, more and more will have their voice heard and choose to participate.

There were 48 recommendations that passed by two-thirds majority to become advisory actions. You can hear about some of them when I give my Delegates General Service Conference (GSC) Report.

Thank you to Information AA Day Committee for the loving invitation to present the first General Service Conference Report on May 15th. I really enjoyed all the sharing and presentations that took place.

The next Delegates GSC report will take place during the Service Day organized by Districts 54 and 62 on June 12th. I will also give a Delegates GSC report on June 19 at 6 pm for anyone who is interested in hearing what took place at the Conference.

If you are unable to attend any of these report backs, you can still learn about what took place at the Conference through the Delegates Newsletter, the summer edition of Box 459 and through the Final Conference Report.

Watch for the Delegates Newsletter to be emailed out around the end of June. It will contain links to the full list of advisory actions. Not all the Conference discussions resulted in Advisory Actions. Many of the important matters were addressed as "additional committee considerations" – these are more informal suggestions and guidance on how best to carry the message. The newsletter will contain a link to the 88 committee considerations.

The summer edition of Box 459 will also include information from the conference. It is available this month from [aa.org](http://aa.org).

Then the Final Conference Report produced by the General Service Office (GSO) will be emailed out towards the end of August. It will include all of the reports, presentations, and decisions from the conference as well as the financial reports.

One advisory action that I will mention is the revision to the Preamble to replace the words "men and women" with the word "people". This revision will appear in the July issue of Grapevine, and its translation will be in the July/August issue of La Viña. Both these issues will be mailed, and posted online, on June 15, 2021. After June 15, as new Grapevine, La Viña and A.A.W.S. literature or reprints go to press, and as web pages are updated, the language will change wherever the A.A. Preamble appears. An email containing this information will be passed along to DCMs today.

On May 8th and 29th, Area 83 hosted a movie night featuring the video presentations by the chairs of the GSB, AAWS Board and AAGV Board. Each Board chair provided an overview of how the pandemic affected AA in 2020. These were very well received and hopefully something we can repeat next year. A 3rd viewing has been scheduled for Sunday June 13th from 6pm to 8pm.

On May 24th I attended the CERAASA steering committee meeting. More on that under New Business. (Canadian

Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)

Here are 3 dates to save and share with our members:

- 1) The Ontario Delegates Committee (ODC) provides an opportunity for the four areas in Ontario to get together in preparation of the General Service Conference.
  - Delegates and alternates present on agenda items and topics of interest to the fellowship.
  - It is hoped that all AA members will attend as observers and participate during Sharing Sessions or when the floor is open.
  - The next ODC, will be held in Area 86, Western Ontario from March 4-6, 2022, in St. Catherine's.
  - One function of this event is to provide a blended voice for the four Delegate Areas in Ontario.
  - This weekend also includes a General Service Conference orientation for the Ontario Delegates and Alternate Delegates.
  - As more details become available, they will be sent out by email to our Area Committee.
- 2) Every 2 years there is an Eastern Canada Regional Forum for all AA members across the 10 areas of Eastern Canada to get together.
  - There is NO registration FEE for Regional Forums.
  - They provide a unique opportunity for A.A. members and local trusted servants to exchange information and share experience with representatives of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine, and the General Service Office.
  - The next Eastern Canada Regional Forum will take place May 13-15, 2022, in Charlottetown, PEI at the Delta House Hotel.
  - More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- 3) We were to host the 2020 Eastern Canada Regional Forum in Ottawa which was cancelled last November. We have been rescheduled to host the Eastern Canada Regional Forum from August 23-25, 2024, in Ottawa.

Thank you for sharing your minutes with me. It is a great way to stay informed about what is happening in your districts. Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

With gratitude, Kimberley

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

Moved:	Jack R., Area PI Chair
Seconded:	Christine F., DCM D18
Discussion	none
All those in favour:	Unanimous
opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Motion:	Carried

## 12. OLD BUSINESS

### a) Update on 2019-2020 Financial Audit Dave L., Area Treasurer

At the Area Committee Meeting on January 9, 2021, the following motion was passed:

*That we appoint Ian C, DCM District 26 and Joyce S, Panel 65 Delegate, as auditors to assist the Area 83 Treasurer in auditing Area 83's books for the years 2019/2020. The timing of the Audit will be delayed until Provincial Guidelines allow the participants to meet in person safely to conduct the audit.*

Since Covid restrictions against gathering remain in place, the Financial Audit continues to be postponed. Once Provincial Guidelines have been relaxed and the Auditors are comfortable gathering, the financial audit will take place.

A further update will be provided at the Area Committee Meeting on September 11, 2021.



### 13. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Tabled Motion:** “That Area 83 Archivist be given a voice at all Area 83 Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings”. Milner G., DCM District 42

Moved:	Milner G., DCM District 42
Seconded:	Jack R., PI Chair
Discussion:	<p>(see Spring Assembly Minutes, Agenda <a href="#">Item 12F</a>)</p> <p><b>George W., DCM D22:</b> If the person who made the motion isn't there to speak to it, is it proper for us to even have a vote on it?</p> <p><b>Amy L., Chair:</b> We would vote on the motion as they presented it. And if it fails then the committee can decide what they want to do after that.</p> <p><b>Jack R., PI Chair:</b> I did second the motion and I believe Milner's intent for this motion was to sort of bring into line with what the Area Committee in the assembly did with the webmaster. And I don't believe that there's anything in our Operating Procedures that states that we have to have the person who made the motion present to vote on the motion.</p>
All those in favour:	21
opposed:	9
abstentions:	2
Motion:	Carried <i>Note: 2/3 majority of 30 is 20</i>
Minority Opinion:	<p><b>George W., DCM D22:</b> I voted against this. First of all, there's a lack of discussion, and even though it might be appropriate for someone who made the motion not to be here, I don't think that's appropriate myself personally. But more generally, I feel when this came up, I had the feeling, there was a little bit of mischievousness in this making this motion - If we're going to give the Webmaster a vote, we should do the same for the Archivist. At the time, and as it was pointed out in the discussion, the Archivist does have a vote through the Archives committee. And there's an Archives chair, whereas with the Webmaster there is no committee representing the Webmaster. I don't feel that they are equivalent. And, more generally I think we start diluting the idea of one group one vote. When we start increasing the size of the vote given to the Area Committee members and such. For those reasons, I'm against this motion.</p> <p><b>James O'D., Alt Delegate:</b> I have to agree with George on this one, it's a point of order. I think it's unusual that the person who made the motion isn't here, so they can't speak to it and or can be amended, so I am a little uncomfortable with that but I don't know what the process is, I don't remember this ever happening. If this motion passes. Does this entail financial repercussions? Do we now pay for the archivist to travel, stay at the hotel. I'm just wondering, are there kind of implications like that, perhaps we didn't discuss that we should do.</p> <p><b>Kathie T., DCM D28:</b> I'm a voice of the minority as well for the reasons already that have been expressed. I think when the ad hoc committee was struck to look at this, the expenses for the Archivist if they're expected to be there, such as the Assembly their expenses are covered and that the area committee meeting it may not necessarily be an expectation for them to be there, just to help and clarify James' question.</p>
Motion to Reconsider:	<i>Note: A motion to reconsider the vote, made by a member who voted with the successful side, but seconded by anyone. Simple majority to pass - if successful, resume debate on the original motion.</i>
Moved:	JoAnn P., Secretary
Seconded:	Jill B., DCM D6
All those in favour:	17
Opposed:	16
Abstain:	2
Motion:	Carried
Back to the Original Motion:	“That Area 83 Archivist be given a voice at all Area 83 Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings”.

Discussion:	<p><b>Marty M., CF Chair:</b> I think there was some misunderstanding because I heard some comments earlier about why we are giving the archivist a vote. This wasn't about giving the Archivist a vote; this is about giving the Archivist a voice. As the former Archives chair, I found that this was an issue, even last term because the questions that can be brought up at the Assembly for instance. The Archivist is already covered for expenses at the Assembly that's already in place it's been like that for a while. They already have their hotel, so I don't know why even that was brought up. It's in the case where someone is asking a question in regard to archival procedures or handling of documents where the archivist, which we invest in to go to the national AA archives workshop. And we rely on their experience on these matters, which the Archives chair doesn't have that kind of experience. So, on the spot, the Archives chair can't immediately answer these questions. So that was really the intention of having the Archivist have a voice, because they don't have a voice, they can't even answer a question at the Assembly. So that's all this is this is just giving them the ability to answer a question. We're not saying that they have to have a separate report, because you're right their report can go through the Archives chair. We're not saying that they have to go to the area committee meetings, I don't even think we've addressed that issue but to at least be able to answer a question at the Assembly, where everybody's attending, it would be beneficial to have the Archivist at least have a voice, not a vote just a voice.</p> <p><b>George H., Alt DCM D14:</b> Clarification please: In our area subcommittee chairs have a have a voice, and a vote. Then then why wouldn't the archivist who is also a subcommittee chair not have a vote?</p> <p><b>Amy L., Chair:</b> The Archivist is not a subcommittee chair.</p> <p><b>James O'D., Alt Delegate:</b> I just wanted to briefly thank Marty for his comments and that brought the clarity I required to move forward.</p> <p><b>Christine F., DCM D18:</b> Actually, what Marty brought up made it less clear for me. Our archivist is appointed, and not just from our general membership in a service position they're actually sort of sought after for a certain skill set and for that, that reason I don't see that they should have the same voice and vote as a subcommittee person. And, to that I'm also worried because the motion doesn't say, as Marty said, just to the Assembly to answer questions, it says to the Assembly and the Area Committee meetings, so both of those also bring up to me immediately what about the costs to get there, to have to be able to be your own voice. For those two, what I see as ambiguities, I'm not in favor of this motion.</p> <p><b>Ian C., DCM D26:</b> Some clarification on whether we're talking about answering questions or having a voice. I don't really see that it is the same thing. Surely, anyone, the Assembly if they're asked a question by a member has the right to answer that question if they're asked. I think when we talk about a voice, we're talking about someone who has the ability to raise issues. And that's, that was my understanding of a voice, they can raise an issue at the Assembly, not whether they could answer the question, but that's a that's a different issue altogether, but perhaps I'm wrong and so I'd like some clarification from someone who might be in a position to answer that question.</p> <p><b>Rob M., Immediate Past Delegate:</b> At the General Service board meetings and at the General Service conference, the Archivist attends as an observer, and may be called upon by the chairperson to answer a question. They don't have a voice per se. They can be called upon to answer a question. So those are two separate things. I voted against this motion because I'm not in favour of them having a voice where they could put out motions and speak to the motions. However, if it was worded differently where the chairperson could call upon the archivist to answer any questions that were directed towards them, I would be okay with that.</p> <p><b>James O'D., Alt Delegate:</b> Rob just raised a really interesting point. If someone has a voice, which is what we're voting on now that that's clear, they could technically, create a motion, but not be able to vote on it. I've just never heard of that before.</p> <p><b>George W., DCM D22:</b> I'm glad we're having this conversation. It has clarified a lot to me. I'm glad we didn't rush into this, and I thought the point about answering questions using voice is a key point. And I think if we give a voice, we will end up giving them a vote, just as the Webmaster debate ended up that way.</p> <p><b>Kathie T., DCM D28:</b> I think a lot of really important things have been said today.</p>
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	Someone mentioned about, it's a specific skill set for the Archivist. I'm not sure about our area I have yet to find it in the Operating Procedures, but I know that at GSO I don't believe the Archivist needs to even be a member of the AA, and that's one of the reasons they don't have a voice. Maybe I'm wrong, but they are appointed and they don't necessarily have to be a member. <b>Amy L., Chair:</b> You know, there's a lot of unanswered questions here, and if you would feel more comfortable tabling this till the September ACM, we can do that and we can have a more fulsome discussion hopefully with Milner present. It won't go to the Assembly until October. It takes one person to make that motion and it needs to be seconded. Otherwise, we will go on to the vote.
Moved:	Marty M., CF Chair: I would like to make a motion to table discussion until the September Area Committee Meeting.
Second:	Jane S., Grapevine Chair
All in favour:	26
Opposed:	7
Abstain:	1
Motion:	Carried*

\*We will revisit this agenda item at the September ACM

**b) Re-appointment of George McQ. as Area 83 Webmaster for 2-year term, effective immediately**  
**Amy L., Area Chair**

As you may recall, there was a call for resumes for the Webmaster position on January 9 and the search closed at the end of February. It is customary that the Area Chair puts forward a candidate for an appointed positions to the Area Committee for *Disapproval*.

The Area is looking for the following qualities from perspective candidates for Webmaster.

- To be experienced with software used in creating and maintaining a website.
- To be experienced and comfortable working within the committee system.
- To be familiar with the A.A. traditions, particularly as they relate to anonymity.
- To be familiar with the GSO's service material: on websites (SMF-101) and the internet (MG-18).

The perspective candidate that is being put forward today is George McQ., a trusted servant who served as the Area webmaster for his first 2-year appointment starting on January 1, 2019. Prior to that, George served the Area for a short stint as Alternate Webmaster and currently also serves as District 74's Webmaster. He has a working knowledge of the Joomla system that we are using for our website today and can be a valuable resource as we move forward in our technological connectivity. Always interested in upgrading his skills, George mentioned in his application that *"thanks to the 100-year plague he has learned much more about Zoom and other teleconferencing technologies"*. These are some of George's assets that I feel would continue to serve the Area well.

George, would you like to add anything? George McQ: *I would like to thank you for considering me and I will be happy to serve Area 83 as the Webmaster if you'll have me.*

*At this point I would open it up to the committee to hear if anyone disapproves of the candidate I am presenting here today.*

opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Appointment:	Approved

**c) Appointment of David T. as Area 83 Archivist for 3-year term, effective immediately**  
**Amy L., Area Chair**

Also, at the January ACM I announced the call for resumes for the Area Archivist, another appointed position. With this search we are seeking members of Alcoholics Anonymous, in Area 83 with a desired skill set.



*The Archivist is the traditional trustee of the Area's memorabilia [and much more I might add] and shall supply advice and consultation, when requested, to all Archives Committees in the Area with respect to the preservation and cataloguing of local archival materials in accordance with the Workbook for Archives.*

Today, I am putting to the Area Committee for Disapproval David T. as the Area Archivist. David has a long history with Archives as he served as the Area Archivist from 2011-2017, worked in the Ottawa Archives from 2017-2019 and following his relocation to Toronto now serves as the Assistant Archivist at the GTA Intergroup Archives. His passion for preserving historical documents and artefacts should serve Aea 83 well.

David, would you like to add anything to these highlights? *David T: You've covered it quite well and yes, I'm willing to serve the Area. And maybe convince more people about transferring stuff to Archives digitally.*

*At this point I would open it to the committee to hear if anyone Disapproves of the candidate I have put forward.*

Discussion/ Question:	<b>James O'D., Alt Delegate:</b> A question of order. If we were live (in the ballroom) would we ask the candidate to leave the room? <b>Rob M., Immediate Past Delegate:</b> in the past we haven't asked them to leave the ballroom. This disapproval process is really a courtesy to the Area chairperson who has the authority to appoint the appointed Committee Members. This has traditionally been done over the years as a courtesy to the Area so that if anyone is strongly opposed, they can speak up at this time.
opposed:	None
abstentions:	None
Appointment:	Approved

#### d) CERAASA update

Kimberley M., Area Delegate

CERAASA (Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly)

##### **Overview and Update**

CERAASA is a three-day event that begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday midday.

CERAASA is held the last weekend of February every two (2) years, in the odd numbered years, on a rotating basis among the ten (10) areas in the Eastern Canada region.

The overall content of the weekend agenda includes panel meetings, open microphone sharing sessions, service presentations and speakers. A business meeting is scheduled on the Saturday afternoon dealing with the business of CERAASA only. All A.A. members are encouraged to attend this business meeting and to participate by voting.

The purpose of CERAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and areas of the Eastern Canada Region and to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences.

The Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (CERAASA) is an opportunity for all A.A. members, especially General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), Area Committee members, to discuss General Service Conference agenda items and related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole. The first CERAASA took place in 2013 and there have been 4 so far. Therefore, CERAASA is still evolving and growing.

After the 2019 CERAASA, an ad-hoc committee was formed to review the CERAASA Guidelines. The ad hoc committee was comprised of the delegates and alternate delegates of the 10 Areas that make up the Eastern Canada Region, along with our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee, Jan.

See Appendix C [Appendix C - CERAASA Guidelines 2019](#).

The guidelines modified by the ad-hoc committee will be presented for approval at the 2023 CERAASA in St Catherine's. A copy will be attached to the minutes from this meeting for your review. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. See Appendix D [Appendix D – CERAASA Guidelines Approved for Submission](#)  
This committee met bi-monthly throughout 2019 and 2020. In 2021 we have continued to meet as a steering committee for CERAASA.

Currently, any changes to CERAASA are determined during the business meeting that takes place during the CERAASA weekend. Items for new business must be submitted in writing at least two weeks prior to the CERAASA.

During our steering committee meetings since January 2021, several things have been brought forward for discussion. I wanted to keep our Area updated. If you have some feedback to carry back to the steering committee meetings, please let me or James know.

#### **Item 1**

We would like to arrange interpretation for the steering committee meetings. This would assist with communication between the English and French speaking delegates and alternates. This is a bi-monthly meeting that is currently being hosted using Area 86's zoom account.

Currently a member is translating for which we are grateful, but it is very cumbersome. Everything is being said twice, once in English and once in French, therefore, meetings take double the time. The interpretation we would like to arrange would be simultaneous. The company listed below is based in Quebec. It is the same company that has been used by the General Service Office for the Conference, World Service Meeting, the Virtual Regional Forums and many other events. These interpreters are familiar with our AA lingo. The conference members were very happy with the interpreters.

Two things are required for interpretation.

- 1) A feature in zoom that allows multiple channels - one for each language.
- 2) A person to do the interpreting.

To upgrade the zoom account to include the interpretation feature and to pay for an interpreter at each meeting would cost at total of \$1748.65 for one year. This is for interpretation at 10 meetings. Six CERAASA steering committee meetings and four meetings where Jan can give the Delegate and Alternate Delegates an Eastern Canada Regional Trustee (ECRT) update. These updates would take place after a board weekend and allow us to ask Jan questions.

Is our area willing to pay \$174.86 towards interpretation at these regional meetings for the next year?

#### **Cost Breakdown as shared by Jan L., our ECRT.**

To add on the interpretation feature to the Zoom Pro account the cost is:  
\$530.00 / year + \$68.90 (13% tax) = \$ 598.90

Interpretation services from America Interpretation:  
10 - 1 hour sessions @ \$100.00/session = \$1000.00 (6 CERAASA and 4 ECRT updates)  
TPS (5%) = \$50.00  
TVQ (9.975%) = \$99.75 (taxes together total \$149.75)  
Total = \$ 1,149.75

Grand Total = \$598.90 + \$1,149.75 = \$ 1,748.65

Each area expense would be \$174.86 for one year.

#### **Item 2**

We are discussing a proposal to replace the Ontario Delegates Committee (ODC) which occurs in the even years, with a virtual CERAASA. In other words, have a virtual CERAASA in the even years and an in person CERAASA in the odd years. Currently the East Coast Delegates do not have an event in the even years to help prepare the delegates for the conference. In addition to supporting the East Coast delegates, it would also foster unity between the 10 areas in Eastern Canada. This would reduce costs for the Ontario Areas to attend and host the ODC but add some costs for Interpretation.

The Ontario Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be meeting Monday night to discuss this proposal further.

**Item 3**

So far there have been four CERAASAS (2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019). It was cancelled in 2021. The next one is in St. Catherine's in 2023. Archiving CERAASA has begun. Starting with minutes from each CERAASA, the financial reports and guidelines. As well as the minutes from our ad hoc committee and steering committee meetings. We have the English versions and are seeking the full collection of French versions. Each area will keep a copy. Each year there is a banner which the host area keeps. We have started to discuss whether CERAASA should be recorded for archival purposes.

**Item 4**

A suggestion was made to determine a rotation schedule for CERAASA similar to the rotation for the Ontario Delegates Committee or the Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Areas would then know several years ahead of time when they would be hosting. Currently an area makes a bid during the CERAASA business meeting to host the next CERAASA. This means an area will know at most 2 years ahead of time. The rotation would take into consideration the Areas that have already hosted.

That gives you an update. If you have some suggestions or feedback, please reach out to me or James.

Kimberley M

QUESTIONS FOLLOWING CERAASA REPORT:

QUESTION: Can you give a general idea of how CERAASA is going to be updated in terms of fostering greater unity in a more general way? I have been to one CERAASA and the translation, hopefully it'll be better, maybe by Canadian instead of an American. My question is how exactly is CERAASA and what's under discussion to make some more relevant to the DCMs and the GSRs in terms of connecting in unity?

ANSWER: It brings members together from all across eastern Canada so they all get a chance to share and hear what each other is sharing on, and they get to ask questions. There may be questions that is an issue that they're having in their area or their district and they can see here what other areas and districts can respond and they can share information so it builds some of those connections. We get to know some of the people in some of the other areas and districts and maybe make some connections that you can keep up. I know now that we're doing virtual things a lot of the time that might allow you to sort of visit and pop in to the different workshops, there are three different groups in their meetings, there's also workshops that take place in the different areas so by making the connections by connecting people, we broaden our scope of experience. Also, one of the things that's discussed, of course, is some of the topics for the upcoming conference so not only are their agenda items that are discussed at the conference but there's also workshop topics. Each year, there's a couple of workshop topics that are discussed as well as presentation topics and those are again typically things where all of the members that attend are asked to share their experience and their thoughts and their concerns and their voices so you get to hear voices and opinions that may be a little different than what we in Area 83 feel. We may learn some things from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia or Quebec or Newfoundland that widen our scope, especially for example with respect to remote communities. They're going to have a lot of experiences very different than ours. That may add to our experience.

QUESTION: Did I understand you correctly that we might be looking at removing the ODC as well?

ANSWER: The Eastern Canada regional trustee just made a proposal, so nothing of course has been decided. The proposal at the time was to, instead of having the ODC which is just for the 4 Ontario areas meeting together for a great weekend. What if we made that a little bigger and had something that all 10 areas could do together? Ontario has four areas and we have the ODC which is the Ontario delegates committee, Quebec also has four areas and they have what's called a QDC, which is, much like the ODC. Therefore, 8 of the 10 Areas have something, while the other two areas out East are on their own, they don't have anything. So, by bringing all 10 together, we can all work together and support other two areas. With CERAASA there is a couple of options.

- 1) Maybe we do away with the ODC and we keep CERAASA or,
- 2) Maybe we still do the ODC and also do CERAASA.

Nothing's been decided; it's in its infancy. The four delegates of Ontario and the alternates are getting together Monday to discuss it and to brainstorm what are the options, what are the pros what are the cons, and then meet with the Ontario past delegates from the four areas and get their input, ideas and suggestions. The next ODC is taking place in February of 2022. the next ODC would be in another two years in 2024. We have over the next two years to think about it and decide what we might like to do.

QUESTION: Eventually the voting on this situation would be at CERAASA?

ANSWER: Correct the voting to have another CERAASA would have to take place at CERAASA so anything that affects the CERAASA would have to take place after. Unless there's a motion to change that and do something different about that. As far as the ODC, I think the Ontario delegates and alternate delegates would make a decision about the ODC based on the feedback from each of their areas. The two entities are going to have to decide what they want to do.

QUESTION: How does the bidding process work? I understand rotating schedule, but when a geographical area makes a bid, what does that look like?

ANSWER: It happens during the business meeting that takes place on Saturday afternoon of the CERAASA weekend. One of the last things that happens under new business is a delegate would go to the mic and they would say we'd like to put a bid in to hold the next CERAASA. They might explain a little bit of how they feel that their area is well prepared to be able to host the event. And, and then everybody in attendance would have an opportunity to ask them questions. Then there would be a vote. In the number of years since 2013 as far as I know there's only been one area, each time, that has made a bid.

Moved:	James O'D., Alt Delegate: <b>Area 83 pay up to \$200.00 for interpretation at Eastern Canada Regional meetings for one year.</b>
Seconded:	Christine F., DCM D18
Discussion	<p><b>George W., DCM D22:</b> Can we hire a Canadian or are we stuck with interpreter provided by our neighbors to the south?</p> <p><b>Kimberley M., Delegate:</b> The General Service Conference is in three languages, English, French and Spanish. That was a result of an advisory action that was made quite some time ago. At the various events that have been organized by the General Service Office and the General Service Conference, they have been using interpretation. At last year's conference this year's conference and the World Service meeting, and a number of other events they have been using interpretation for quite some time now. There is a particular company that they've been making use of. And this is the company that you see listed there so those people they have been using to interpret a number of the events and it's been going really well because Alcoholics Anonymous has its own lingo. We have certain phrases and terminology and these people have been interpreting at a number of events and the Quebec delegates have found them to be very good. And they're comfortable with their interpretation and so that's why we felt we would ask these same people since they've already had lots of practice and they've done it several times.</p> <p><b>Rob M., Immediate Past Delegate:</b> The interpretation company that Kimberly's referring to is out of Quebec and the interpreters are French Canadians. At the 2019 CERAASA for some reason they didn't use them, and the interpretation was not great. The company that they're proposing has done many events as Kimberly said and they're really good.</p> <p><b>Jane S., Grapevine Chair:</b> You had mentioned, English, French and Spanish. But this only says French and since we do have a Spanish speaking district in Area 83 would it also include Spanish or would that be something extra?</p> <p><b>James O'D., Alt Delegate:</b> this is really for the meetings where the delegates and alternate delegates are meeting. At this time, we only have Anglophones and Francophones at those meetings. So the interpretation is to facilitate those meetings. At the moment what the meetings look like is we have a volunteer and someone speaks in English, we all stop and that volunteer translates into the other language, and then we all stop again. And then we go back and forth. The meeting is very stilted and it's also not really fair especially to the Francophone participants. This will give them full right of participation. At the conference it's amazing to see such a good flow, except they also add Spanish at the GSC.</p> <p><b>Amy L., Chair:</b> Kimberley, you're asking for \$178. specifically, for what?</p>

	<b>Kimberley M., Delegate:</b> The cost for our Area towards the entire grand total which gives us the two things that we need for interpretation to take place. One is the ability to have two channels on zoom. So that's a technical issue like within zoom because the regular accounts don't come with that so you need to have that feature added to the zoom account so that's the one cost. And then the other costs is for the actual person to do the interpretation.
All those in favour:	27
opposed:	1
abstentions:	1
Voice of the Minority:	None
Motion:	Carried

**e) Discussion: Flow/Quantity of Area Communications      JoAnn P., Area Secretary**

As Area Secretary my responsibilities include forwarding information from various Area Officers to you, the Area Committee. The Area Committee is the steering committee of the Area Assembly. Since March of 2020, we have been communicating and meeting virtually conducting the “business” of Area 83. As an Area, we are connected to the Conference Service Structure through our Delegate.

When I was elected Secretary, I knew there would be many communications that would flow from our Delegate or Area Officers and in turn, I would forward on to District Committee Members who would then forward this information to the General Service Representatives. Since the pandemic, our ability to gather and share information verbally, one alcoholic to another has been truncated. Now, we rely on virtual meetings to keep us informed and connected as an Area.

As members connected to the Conference structure, we have a responsibility to participate in communication through the structure. Concept 1 states that *the groups hold ultimate responsibility and ultimate authority for our world services...* It is our responsibility to ensure that information flows to the Groups, through the General Service Representatives. Page S17 in the Service Manual states

*“there must be constant communication among all elements of the structure...The communications process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience – for or against change, approval or disapproval of a proposed action – be known to its elected General Service Representative. The General Service Representative makes sure the groups wishes are heard and fully considered at the district and area levels, and that they are part of the delegate’s thinking at the General Service Conference.”*

I would like to think that all members are familiar with the “upside down triangle” where the Groups are at the top of the triangle and the General Service Board, and its 2 Corporate Boards are at the bottom.

The District Committee Member is an essential link between the group GSR and the Area Delegate to the General Service Conference, as stated on Page S31 of the Service Manual.

Area 83 has completed another year of Preconference Agenda sharing sessions – this is where we see the communication model in action. There were many emails sent by me on behalf of the Preconference Agenda Sharing team to inform our members of the opportunity to be truly connected to the service structure of the General Service Conference.

During the Area Assembly in March, your concerns regarding the quantity of communications were voiced through your District reports. I have also received emails suggesting a better way to disseminate information. This is why we are talking about the flow and quantity of information today.

In preparation for this discussion, I re-visited the A.A. Internal External Communications Audit Report (Abridged) August 2018 performed by Impact Collaborative. It states,

- *“Communication is at the heart of A.A.’s mission to extend the hand of recovery from alcoholism to anyone who seeks help. It begins with one alcoholic sharing his or her experience, strength, and hope with another alcoholic. From there, it takes on more forms: group meetings, District committees, Area assemblies—an entire Conference structure that is served by three Boards and two corporations. This “upside-down triangle” is the pathway for A.A.’s communications. How effectively the lower tip of that triangle communicates—internally, and to the larger Conference structure, friends of A.A. (e.g., professionals, media, employers), Intergroups, members at various stages of sobriety and, most*

*importantly, the alcoholic who still suffers—will have a profound effect on A.A.'s impact and relevance in the face of a rapidly changing world.” Page 1*

- *“Information is not travelling up or down the Conference structure effectively or efficiently.” P15*
- *“Gap in information transfer to General Service Representatives. Groups connected to the structure are not necessarily well informed.” P15*
- *“Poor transfer of information from Delegates to others, and, sometimes from Board to Delegates.” P15*

We received this audit information in December of 2018. Many changes at the Board level have addressed these challenges. Area Delegates are receiving information from the General Service Board, AA World Services and Grapevine Boards at a rate that is far greater than ever before. Informed group conscience has been increased due to the wealth of information available. Part of my role as Secretary is to forward information received by the Delegate and as communication increases, the emails to Area Committee members increase as well.

I have tracked the information that I have sent to Area Committee members on behalf of Area Officers and Subcommittee Chairs since January 1 – May 8, 2021. The categories and counts (approximate) of these emails are as follows:

- From Delegate – 19
- From Alternate Delegate - 2
- From Chairperson - 7
- From Treasurer - 2
- PCAS Information - 13
- Rosters - 2
- Grapevine (from Delegate or Grapevine Inc.) – 7
- From A.A.W.S – 2

Total of 54 emails. This total does not include one-offs sent to various committee members.

The majority of the emails sent to all Area Committee members were for items that occur during the first 4 months of the term, for example, Preconference Agenda Sharing, Rosters, and items related to the General Service Conference. Most of these emails included a request that the email be shared widely.

In the broad scope of the Secretary role, I have sent hundreds of e-mails to various committees and individuals such as District Secretaries, Area Officers, Area Subcommittee Chairs, District Committee Members, and Webmaster, related to general secretary duties during this time frame – all of them in order to gather and or confirm information related to my duties. Getting information for the Area Roster requires numerous emails as positions are filled over time. Also, for example, to compile the minutes of an Area Committee meeting or Area Assembly, I receive approximately 37 reports via email. I understand the sometimes frustrating digital world we live in today.

Anecdotal evidence shows that a small percentage of members are either not reading or receiving these important communications. The communication structure in Alcoholics Anonymous is somewhat of an anomaly with the different layers of transmitting information. Almost every communication from the General Service Board, General Service Office, Grapevine Inc., or A.A. World Services is sent to the Delegate. The Delegate forwards the information to the Area Secretary who in turn forwards to the Area Officers, Area Subcommittee Chairs and District Committee Members. If we were to bypass one or more of the layers of communication and go directly to the GSRs or the District Committee Members, then the Area Committee would suffer. As stated in the Service Manual PS31,

*“the District Committee Member is an essential link between the group G.S.R. and the area delegate to the General Service Conference. As leader of the District committee, made up of all G.S.R.s in the district, the D.C.M. is exposed to the group conscience of that district. As a member of the area committee, he or she is able to pass on the district’s thinking to the delegate and the committee.”*

Concept 3 talks about a traditional “right of decision” and this is important as well as Concept 10 which addresses service responsibility matched by an equal service authority. I would like to be able to perform my duties within this framework.

Perhaps there is a way to address these concerns – sharing documents on an accessible drive and only sending a message that there is a new item for your attention. Perhaps a portal on Area 83 website that Area



Committee members could access in order to be up to date. Perhaps our way of communicating information isn't broken. I don't know what the solution is – let's talk about it.

DISCUSSION:

**Jane S., Grapevine Chair:** I know there's a lot of information that flows between GSO and the DCMs and I think the way that it's happening is perfect. If it was up to me to go somewhere and look for it, I probably wouldn't so I appreciate it coming into my inbox. I can take the information and send it on without my interpretation. It's as simple as reading it and forwarding it on. I don't need to explain it to anybody, everybody's got a brain and can figure it out for themselves.

**Jack R., PI Chair:** I do like the idea of Google Drive, because I spend a lot of time searching through different email inboxes to find a document, and I don't know where I've put it. A central repository of the last six months worth of emails. You can group them into GSO emails, Area 83 emails, letters from the ECRT, the trustee. We could easily access them. I think that's a great idea.

**Jonathan C., DCM D36:** I find that the email system works pretty well, I haven't had any harsh complaints from a GSR. I'll try to get their opinion on it. I organize a lot of stuff by email personally, so I find it helps to have the actual chronological order of the inbox and being able to search by name and so forth. But the one thing I do as a DCM when I forward on the emails is I will clip out all the stuff before the actual message which can double the size of the email. I will include what I call a slug which just says it's from the area in through the DCM through to the GSRs. And this also seems to be helpful because it gives people an immediate list of where this information is coming from. That's the only modification I do to the emails.

**Rob M., Immediate Past Delegate:** JoAnn mentioned the internal, external communications audit that was conducted in 2017- 2018. That was a very extensive audit that took a long time and a lot of effort was put into it. And as JoAnn said it identified that there's a lack of communication, up and down our service structure. In recent years, our General Service Board and Area 83 have done a lot of work to try and improve communication throughout A.A. As we know, an informed group conscience will carry our message more effectively. So, reducing communication up and down the service structure may impede our ability to help the still suffering alcoholic. An example where we are doing things differently is the Grapevine updates. In the past, the Delegate would forward them to our Area Secretary who would send them out to all the Area Committee including the district committee members. I've heard that recently that's not being done. The Grapevine updates are being sent to the Area Grapevine chair, who is sharing them only with the District Grapevine chairs. So that's just one small thing but that means that most of us here today are not getting those grapevine updates. I don't think we should be changing how we communicate if it's going to mean that information is not getting to everyone that needs it or wants it.

**Ann J., DCM D10:** I've heard this at a few meetings, and I was thinking at one point it would be a good idea but was quickly corrected and now understand the correction. There was a time when I was thinking maybe on behalf of, you know, the GSR and the table, I'll just I'll edit out some of these things and decide what is important and pass that on. That's not my job, my job is to pass along everything that needs to be passed on because everything is important to some people. So, I make sure that I do that. I am getting some duplicate things from different sources. Grapevine is one of those, so I wait for a couple of days and I hold things so I don't have to send them twice, especially if it's coming through Area afterwards with some preamble. I prefer that version to go out. I can give you more feedback on where those things are coming from. I prefer to receive emails and not have to go to a drive to get them. When they're in front of my face I do something with them. If I had to go to get them, I might not be as good at it, but that's just me.

In our district the GSRs expect a district newsletter/update every Wednesday. I keep it brief and to the point. They expect all the area emails to come on Friday, unless it's time sensitive. So that seems to be working well and nobody's complaining about it anymore. One of the things I will say there were 13 Preconference Agenda sharing emails, you know when it's in our control or something like that, perhaps we could step back and consider streamlining some of those so there's not quite so many because it did get a little bit confusing there. Especially since it was a new table of people, maybe even make do with fewer that said more. I appreciate you letting me share.

**Jo D., CPC Chair:** I agree with most of what has been said. I just would say, when I was DCM, I would read the emails and I would very often put a little summary in the email when I was forwarding it because I've already

read it I can just give you a little bit more information about why you might want to read this. But people don't have to do that. Somebody before me already said, we've all got brains. I have to say that one of the things that I particularly liked is most of the time the emails come with a subject line that tells me what it is. So, if they don't want to read it, they can file them and read it when I am ready. For this reason I would object to clustering a bunch of emails, because I would not be able to find a particular message. I like the way it's being done. Yes, there were a lot for the pre conference, but I also really appreciate the reminder – *“don't forget you've got to go to that tomorrow night”*.

**Ian C., DCM D26:** I think if there's any breakdown in communication it's probably on my end. I get criticized by my partner sometimes for not having read everything immediately when it comes in.

In my defense, and I may not be alone, I can get 60-80 emails in the day quite easily for my job. So, a few emails from the secretary can get lost in all of that.

**Kevin O., DCM D54:** This is great that this was added as a topic of discussion, and I know I definitely have been one of those voices that has been asking a lot of questions about the amount of communications and I really appreciate seeing this. I appreciate the fact that we are getting as much information as we are. I don't know that there's anything broken, I know one of the things that I'm definitely looking for (brand spanking new into this role and not even easing into it) is a more effective way or a more efficient way to get those out to my table. The GSR is at the table, and having new bodies there as well, trying to add that little blurb or interpretation or information before sending it off to them so that it is somewhat meaningful to them, and they know what to do with it and take it to other groups. Maybe I'm trying to do a little bit too much in the way of hand holding and as opposed to what I heard from Jane which is they just forward the message and off you go read it figure it out. You got any questions, ask right. So, I have a feeling I might be over complicating it but I know in our past district meeting this past Thursday, I talked with the Registrar and we're going to be looking at a Google Drive solution for our table. Because she is faced with the challenge of having to break up any emails that we do send out into two or three different ones so that it doesn't get put into people's spam emails. All that to say is I appreciate your presentation today. It was very informative that was very good. A good reminder of the importance of what it is we are doing with the communications and, and they are informative. Just this past week there's four calls for positions and non trustee and so then I'm going to send that off to my Registrar and say send it out to the group. So that's four emails broken out into three. There are 12 emails she's got to basically break out and send them. I think that comes down to us to just look at a more effective and efficient way for us to get the message out. And that's what I loved about our meeting just this past Thursday, is that as a group we talked about it and they said let's see what we can do to work through this. So, anyway, so I wanted to share that and thank you for your presentation.

**James O'D., Alt Delegate:** The 2018 audit has been brought up several times. And there was a really large communication issue between the Area, and the GSR. And we haven't done anything differently since that audit, which they spent a lot of money on it was very detailed. So, if we haven't done anything differently, we are going to have the same issue 10 years from now if we continue doing the same thing over and over and over again. I'm not actually saying, what would be the best way. But I know we do have this new tool, and it is called the fellowship connection. So, while I can't speak to it in all its details, I know Bill will be far more specialist than me. You know my feeling has always been for some reason I'm getting all the Grapevine things from Grapevine directly to my email. Since I am the destination point for that letter it shouldn't have to go somewhere else to get to me. I'm just wondering why we have to go through all these layers for something to get to an individual at the end of the line? Why don't we just send it directly to them? That would address the communication issue. So again, I know there's a whole bunch of things to be worked out. I've heard one reason to not to do it differently is GSRs change all the time. However, as the district registrar that's their function to keep those records up to date. We need to do our part wherever we are in the service structure to help that communication keep going and that's why we have these positions. So, just something to think about. If we continue doing the same thing when they do an audit 10 years from now, they're going to find the same result.

**George W., DCM D22:** The question here is: Is more information really improving an informed conscience or is it hindering it? I enjoy listening to my GSR to find out what she is actually reporting from a district meeting, and what she's left out. And therefore, you know what's getting through. We're trying to reach the top of this triangle. I know I'm not in charge of what people do with what I send out. We're flooding people - considering



my GSR started in the position in January, and then there were all these events going on with lots of communication—it was really overwhelming for everyone. It wasn't really helpful in terms of encouraging them into service. It was really kind of off-putting.

**Julie F., DCM D74:** I am one of the people who got a lot of feedback about the volume of information, especially in the first three months and I understand that it's not like this all year long. So, in view of the audit, I understand that all of the information needs to flow down. I never felt it was up to me to filter what was passed on or what wasn't. I've always felt a responsibility to read/digest the materials and then write a blurb for context, just forwarding an email to me I don't see it as reaching all of our groups effectively. So, I tried to sell it and I explained why they should take a look at it and try to tell them what to do with it. *Please take it back to the group* indicates with the kind of feedback that we wanted. And for the most part this year I got zero feedback. The only thing that got some attention was the item on the video on accessibility and relatability of the big book that a few groups viewed the video and gave me feedback. I still think that there is a part of a responsibility for me as the DCM to introduce this information. I expect this volume of information for me as the DCM. I see the GSR is struggling to solicit interest among the groups. So maybe next year, I will consider working closely with the GSRs, and maybe organize something so that we could provide feedback as a District. If the groups are not willing to consider these kinds of questions individually everybody is invited of course but I feel I have to do something to make it more manageable for the members. Some of our groups have a half hour business meeting and they expect to see things that relate to their reality. They don't know about all these other committees. We educate but we have to do that in good measure, so I very much appreciate the feedback from everyone especially the idea of bundling. I started bundling similar things. Earlier on trying to give them an information package here are the invitations for this month. Here are the calls for positions that are calling out for resumes trying to put things in logical bundles so that it's easier to manage. Thank you for considering the questions, and we're learning.

**George H., ADCM D14:** There's some things that I've learned in service over the years in Alcoholics Anonymous. Whatever level of service that we're at that we have to send down information. We disseminate the information that we have to send down. This is not about flooding people with information that maybe they don't even understand. You've got to be in a service a little while to understand certain things. That's what we have service sponsors for. When I was DCM in another District, when I gave out a report to my District, I gave stuff that was pertinent to the district that the district can use and it wouldn't be above their heads. If there's something going on with the executive, for instance, that's something that the Groups doesn't need to know what's going on, that's an executive meeting. I tend to put the information down that's pertinent to the district and to the GSR so they can give it to the Groups in such a way that that they can grasp what they're giving. Sometimes we give away too much information and we confuse a lot of people.

**Kathie T., DCM D28:** I just wanted to share that I was a GSR at a time where I had a DCM that sent nothing forward, and you know his biggest complaint was he said you know I've got 500 emails in my inbox and I just don't even know what to do with. Being a GSR when a DCM wasn't doing their job properly can be very frustrating. As a DCM, my job is to pass that information on. I know I'm the most important link between the Area and the Groups, and the GSR is the most important link between the Group, and the district. We've got to keep those links strong. Things get broken with the weakest link.

**Christine F., DCM D18:** It's part of the duty of being a DCM to give out this information and I really appreciate what Kathie just said. My first few years of the district table I was in the dark and I had to seek out information for myself. I go to an Assembly and I'd hear things like the conference report, and I would go find it because I was not given a report or link or any manner to find out about it, but I'm a keener and I like learning. I was told early on that if it's not inconvenient for me it's not really service work. Where would I be if I only picked my recovery and my service based on my availability. I'm horrible at certain things so that's inconvenient but I love information so that was convenient. For all of us at every level we're going to find one part of this jarring and one part not. And we won't be able to find a patch for everyone. I do like the learning, and that we are growing towards greater communication and the more we can do that, the better. I heard some really good things; specific dates, bundling, and time sensitive. I tried one where I put you've received the following communications from me the date the subject line. I also heard about sending out one email per and the benefit of that is the ability to search. There's a whole bunch of learning-curve things in here, but I do know that that

not communicating isn't going to be the solution, and I don't like the idea of one repository. I won't go look; I like that it comes to me by email.

#### 14) SHARING - WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Joyce S., P65 Delegate: Hi everyone, I'm an alcoholic and I'm your panel 65 delegate. I really enjoyed this past discussion that we had. As a member I have three legacies that I should be dealing with and service is one of them. Being in service keeps me connected to AA as a whole and this is part of why you are all here and I'm preaching to the choir of dedicated service members and trusted servants. Keeping the lines of communication open is vital. If you're getting flack from your GSRs or if you're getting flack for sending all these emails out, do it anyway. That's what you are elected to do. You are the link between the Groups the District the Area, and our General Service office. I appreciate getting all these emails. I read everything. And as a matter of fact, I used to get all the District meeting minutes which I love getting in the minutes and it's not because I am being nosy. I just love getting the minutes so if anyone would like to send me your district meeting minutes, you can send them to [area83pastdelegate@bell.net](mailto:area83pastdelegate@bell.net). Keep the emails coming and it makes me feel that I'm still connected to A.A. And the minute I stop reading them is when I feel that the connection is broke, you're all doing a great job. You're our future. Please keep up the good work. Thank you.

Bert ADCM D22: And I do appreciate the last conversation that that I heard. As a matter of fact, I receive all those email about three or four times because the DCM sends it to me, the area secretary and some others send it to me as well. So, I receive it often and I just open it once or twice to check if it's the same thing. This is okay with me. Tomorrow night at 6:30 (Sunday), we're going to have Our Great Responsibility study. If you're interested, I will put the link in the Chat.

Kim S., P67 Delegate: I am happy to be here and now have a just like Joyce, whoo. It's hard the first year not having a voice or a vote and to sit quiet, all day long. But the last conversation...Wow, this was something that really needed to be discussed. I'm proud of the Area 83 for doing this. I'm included and even though I don't have a voice, I'm included in emails and I appreciate still being included. And I know that the communication is moving down through the DCM because I hear my GSR at my group mentioned things that I hear here, or that I know is being sent out, so I really really really love that all this stuff is being sent down. When I was a GSR this didn't happen.

#### 15) NEXT AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved:	Trevor F., DCM District 62
Seconded:	Maria M., DCM District 30
Discussion	none
All those in favour:	27
opposed:	None
abstentions:	none
Motion:	Carried

- *Motion to hold the next Area Committee meeting on September 11, 2021, on this virtual platform*

REMINDER: The **Fall Assembly** will be held virtually, and all members of Area 83 are encouraged to attend. Remember, that Saturday of that weekend will be a day of workshops with broad appeal, so please encourage all members (in general service or not in service) to attend. The Agenda should be available 6 weeks in advance. It will be sent out to the DCMs and I would ask that you please pass it on to the GSRs. The Agenda will also be available on the Area83 website-under the events tab. DCMs, please ask GSRs to extend the invitation to any interested group members to attend both the Saturday and if they wish to observe the business meeting on Sunday.

#### 16) CLOSING

It is now 4:15 pm and I would like to thank everyone for their participation today and wish you good health and safety until we meet again.

- May I have a motion to end this meeting?

Moved:	Jill B., DCM District 6
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Seconded:	Barbara C., DCM District 78
Discussion	none
All those in favour:	26
opposed:	1
abstentions:	none
Motion:	Carried

**The Meeting closed with A Declaration of Unity.**

**This we owe to AA's future;  
to place our common welfare first;  
to keep our Fellowship united.  
For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives  
of those to come.**

APPENDICES

Appendix A<sub>1</sub> Financial Documents—Financial Summary (May 28, 2021)

**EASTERN ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AREA 83**

*as at May 28 2021*

<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT</b>		Actual
January 1, 2021 Opening Balance		20,000.00
Interest		
Transfer to Operating Account		
<b>RESERVE ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>		20,000.00

<b>INCOME</b>		
7th Tradition		1,762.00
Cost Recoveries		0.00
Flow Through to GSO		0.00
Grapevine Seasonals		0.00
Group, District & Individual Contributions		14,442.03
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	16,204.03
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVE		0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME &amp; TRANSFERS</b>		16,204.03

<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accommodations		0.00
Meals		0.00
Travel		0.00
Long Distance		0.00
Postage		331.95
Printing		126.65
Literature		0.00
Stationery		20.33
Miscellaneous		72.56
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>		551.49
Ad Hoc Committees		0.00
Area Contribution to GSO		5,000.00
Area Committee Meetings		0.00
General Service Conf. Assessment		2,897.40
Bank Service Charges		47.45
Paypal fees		4.62
Forums		0.00
Grapevine Seasonal		0.00
GSO Flow Through		0.00
Ontario Delegates' Committee (ODC)		0.00
CERAASA / ECDO		114.97
International Convention		0.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>		8,064.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		8,615.93

<b>OPERATING ACCOUNT</b>		
Opening Balance as of January 1, 2021		41,596.93
Total Income & Transfers		16,204.03
Total Expenses		(8,615.93)
<b>OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>		49,185.03

Appendix A2 Financial Documents–Detail of Expenses (May 28, 2021)

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International  
Details of Expenditures  
as at May 28, 2021

Position	Accommodations	Meals	Travel	Long Distance	Postage	Printing	Literature	Stationery	Misc.	Total	Approved Spending Guideline	Balance +/-	YTD Usage
<b>COMMITTEE EXPENSES</b>													
Delegate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	227.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	227.99	\$825.00	\$97.01	27.64%
Alt Delegate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.56	72.56	\$1,250.00	1177.44	5.80%
Immediate past Delegate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Chairperson	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$555.00	555.00	0.00%
Secretary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,435.00	1435.00	0.00%
Treasurer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	103.96	128.65	0.00	20.33	0.00	250.94	\$825.00	574.06	30.43%
Registrar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Area Web Site/Webmaster	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Archives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Activist	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Cooperation with the P.C.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Corrections Facilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Grapevine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Public Information	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Self Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Treatment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$525.00	525.00	0.00%
Accessibility	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$3,951.54	3951.54	0.00%
Service Info Day Cmte	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$3,911.75	891.75	0.00%
Fall Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 331.95</b>	<b>\$ 126.65</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 20.33</b>	<b>\$ 72.56</b>	<b>\$ 551.49</b>	<b>\$ 24,172.29</b>	<b>\$ 23,620.80</b>	<b>2.29%</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>													
Adhoc Committees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
Area Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500.00	500.00	0.00%
Area GSO Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47.45	47.45	\$100.00	52.55	47.45%
Paypal Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.62	4.62	\$15.00	10.38	30.80%
Forums	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
Grapevine Seasonal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,850.00	1,850.00	0.00%
GSC Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,897.40	2,897.40	\$2,897.40	0.00	100.00%
GSO Flow Through	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,700.00	1,700.00	0.00%
Ont Delegates' Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
CERAASA / ECDO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114.97	114.97	\$125.00	10.03	91.98%
International Convention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,064.44</b>	<b>\$ 8,064.44</b>	<b>\$ 12,187.40</b>	<b>\$ 4,122.96</b>	<b>66.17%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 331.95</b>	<b>\$ 126.65</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 20.33</b>	<b>\$ 3,137.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,615.93</b>	<b>\$ 36,359.69</b>	<b>\$ 27,743.76</b>	<b>23.70%</b>

<b>Income Summary :</b>	
5/29/2021	
7th Tradition	1,762.00
Bank Interest	-
GSO Flow Through	-
Contributions	14,442.03
Cost Recoveries	-
Grapevine Seasonals	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 16,204.03</b>

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<b>Income Summary :</b>	
5/29/2021	
7th Tradition	1,7

Appendix A<sub>3</sub> Financial Documents—Contributions by District (May 28, 2021)

<b>GROUP &amp; DISTRICT CONTRIBUTIONS as at May 28, 2021</b>
--

District	0	Unspecified, Individual	\$100.00
District	2	Malton	\$100.00
District	6	Mississauga	\$1,215.00
District	10	Toronto South Central	\$2,080.33
District	12	Toronto South West	\$1,033.90
District	14	Toronto North Central	\$766.00
District	16	Hispano De Toronto	\$0.00
District	18	Toronto City East	\$450.00
District	22	Scarborough	\$1,644.00
District	26	Lakeshore West	\$774.00
District	28	Lakeshore East	\$630.14
District	30	Quinte West	\$300.00
District	34	Quinte East	\$500.00
District	36	Kingston And The Islands	\$605.00
District	42	St. Lawrence International	\$363.42
District	48	Seaway Valley North	\$350.00
District	50	Cornwall	\$0.00
District	54	Ottawa Rideau	\$250.00
District	58	Ottawa Bytown	\$150.00
District	62	Ottawa West	\$1,180.24
District	66	Golden Triangle	\$300.00
District	70	Renfrew Pontiac	\$0.00
District	74	Pembroke	\$1,000.00
District	78	Madawaska Valley	\$50.00
District	82	Victoria Haliburton	\$0.00
District	86	Kawartha	\$600.00

Total Contributions YTD: \$14,442.03

Total from Groups	\$10,052.89	61	Groups
Total from Districts	\$4,289.14	8	Districts
Total from Individuals	\$100.00	1	Individuals



## Appendix B Call Letter – Alternate Webmaster



May 26, 2021

### Area 83 Alternate Webmaster

The 2-year term for the Alternate Webmaster concludes on June 1, 2021. This letter serves as a call for résumés from members interested in serving Area 83 during the period September 1, 2021-June 1, 2023).

*The Alternate Webmaster shall be appointed (or re-appointed) for a (2) two-year term by the Area Committee, on a recommendation of the Area Chair after consultation with any other members of Area 83 deemed suitable for advice by the Area Chair. Total term length not to exceed (4) four years. Resumes for consideration shall be submitted to the Area Chair. The Alternate Webmaster shall also be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 83.*

Some of the qualities most desirable in the individual who will fill the vacancy are:

- To be experienced with software used in creating and maintaining a website.
- To be experienced and comfortable working within the committee system.
- To be familiar with the A.A. traditions, particularly as they relate to anonymity.
- To be familiar with the GSO's service material: [FAQs about AA Websites](#) (SMF-101) and [Guidelines for the Internet](#) (MG-18).

A complete position description, taken from the Area Operating Procedures, is attached.

The attached resume form should be completed by prospective applicants and returned by **August 20, 2021** to the Area 83 Chair: [chairperson@area83aa.org](mailto:chairperson@area83aa.org)

Yours in love and Service,

*Amy L.*

Panel 71 Chair

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

[chairperson@area83aa.org](mailto:chairperson@area83aa.org)

## Appendix B Call Letter – Alternate Webmaster *continued*



### From Area 83 Operating Procedures:

#### AREA WEBMASTER AND ALTERNATE WEBMASTER

To be appointed (or re-appointed) for a (2) two-year term by the Area Committee, on a recommendation of the Area Chair after consultation with any other members of Area 83 deemed suitable for advice by the Area Chair. Total term length not to exceed (4) four years. Resumes for consideration shall be submitted to the Area Chair. The Webmaster shall also be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 83.

The Area Webmaster holds primary authority and responsibility for the oversight of the Area 83 Website. The primary duty is to maintain the website, in terms of additions, deletions, updates, email address forwarding for Area 83 contacts and to track web site usage. The Webmaster shall ensure the *12 Traditions* and *12 Concepts*, GSO guidelines and policies and Area 83 Website Guidelines (Appendix Seven of the [Area 83 Operating Procedures](#)) are followed relating to the World Wide Web.

The Webmaster, *a voting appointed committee<sup>1</sup> member* will report to the Area Chair regularly, and to the Area Committee and the Assembly as necessary about new material received and give updates about ongoing projects. The Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster is suggested to attend the Area Committee Meetings and the Area Assemblies.

The Area Committee shall ultimately be responsible for and give direction regarding the policy and content of the Area 83 website, thus requiring attendance of the Area Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster at Area Committee meetings. Attendance at Assembly is expected; however, the Service Information Day Committee may require the Webmaster to do a workshop or participate in a panel or in presenting displays at the Assembly. All expenses, including but not limited to transportation, travel expense (including room and meals for the Webmaster or Alternate Webmaster), shall be paid by Area 83 or in the case of other requests, the requesting party or organization.

A separate line-item on the Area Spending Guidelines and Expense worksheet shall reflect expected Area Webmaster expenses including the costs to maintain the Website.

An Alternate Webmaster will be appointed (or re-appointed) for a (2) two-year term by the Area 83 Chair from candidates recommended by the Webmaster from resumes submitted to the Area Chair. The Alternate Webmaster shall also be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 83 and assist in the design and maintenance of the Website and be available for meetings of the Area Committee/Assembly when the Area Webmaster is not able to attend. **The overall position summary for the Area Webmaster shall apply to the Alternate Area Webmaster.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Spring Assembly March 28, 2021 under "Old Business" Item 11 – C. it was approved in principle that the "Area 83 Webmaster, or in their absence the Alternate Webmaster, be given a vote as well as a voice at the Area Committee Meetings and Area Assembly." Specific verbiage on this amendment to the Operating Procedures has yet to be approved by the Assembly.

Appendix B Call Letter – Alternate Webmaster *continued*

A version of this  
form in Word may be  
downloaded [HERE](#)



**Area 83 Alternate Webmaster Resume Sheet**

Name:		Phone number:	
Address:		Email:	
		Sobriety Date:	
		Date submitted:	

Education

--

A.A. Background

--

Current A.A. Activities

--

Archival Experience / Training

--

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information may be attached**

## Appendix C - CERAASA Guidelines 2019 – for reference

### CERAASA GUIDELINES<sup>1</sup>

Every two years we have a unique experience to meet with our fellow A.A.'s from all over the Eastern Canada Region. Some of you may not be familiar with this event (CERAASA) and so the following is a brief explanation.

The Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is sponsored by the ten (10) areas of the Eastern Canada Region: Area 81 New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island, Area 82 Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador, Area 83 Eastern Ontario International, Area 84 Northeast Ontario, Area 85 Northwest Ontario, Area 86 Western Ontario, Area 87 Southwest Quebec, Area 88 Southeast Quebec, Area 89 Northeast, Area 90

Northwest Quebec. The regional boundaries are as designated in the A.A. Service Manual. The purpose of CERAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and areas of the Eastern Canada Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The assembly and CERAASA committee always try to foster our legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Delegates of the Eastern: Canada Region have overall responsibility for implementing CERAASA and all current delegates of the region should attend. CERAASA guidelines suggest that the cost to attend is determined by the host area, keeping in mind that the registration fee be reasonably priced to encourage attendance by as many A.A. members as possible. The Eastern Canada Regional Trustee will be invited and his or her expenses are paid in full.

CERAASA is held every two (2) years, in the odd numbered years, on a rotating basis between the ten (10) Eastern Canadian areas. A chairperson is elected from the host area. It is a three-day event that usually begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday midday. The overall content of the weekend agenda includes panel meetings, open microphone sharing sessions, ask-it-baskets, service presentations and speakers. A business meeting is scheduled on Saturday afternoon dealing with the business of CERAASA only. All A.A. members are encouraged to attend this meeting and to participate in voting.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (CERAASA) is for General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), Area Committee members and A.A. members to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole, as well as pertinent aspects of Recovery, Unity and Service common to the areas of the Eastern Canada Region.

#### Trustee/Delegates

The regional trustee and the current delegates shall have responsibility for the overall implementation of CERAASA.

<sup>1</sup> This document was converted into word doc to incorporate into Area 83 June ACM minutes. There may be a slight adjustment in spacing from the original

1. The delegate who submitted the bid will be responsible for putting on the assembly. The delegate may serve as chairperson or appoint someone else.
2. It should be the policy of CERAASA to encourage attendance.
  - a) The site selection within the area should be given consideration to providing economical food and lodging. Meal packages are not encouraged.
  - b) Registration should be kept as low as possible, consonant with recovery expenses.
3. Current delegates of the Eastern Region are urged to attend.
4. Expenses of the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee will be paid by CERAASA
5. A report from the Eastern Canadian Regional Trustee will be included in a panel.

#### General

The dates for CERAASA should be firmly established as the last weekend in February.

1. A business meeting will be held during each assembly and listed in the program.
2. The business meeting shall be one and one half (1½) hours in length.
3. Minutes of the preceding meeting will be read.
4. Areas wishing to host CERAASA will announce their intention to submit a bid.
5. Items for new business must be submitted in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to CERAASA. Urgent or important items that need to be considered in the business meeting, not previously submitted, may be submitted by noon on the day of the business meeting. Approved motions shall not be retroactive.
6. Motions concerning the operation of CERAASA will be accepted until noon on the day of the business meeting.

#### Registration Packet

The following items shall be included with the materials given to each registrant:

1. A copy of the CERAASA Guidelines.
2. A copy of the agenda topics for the upcoming General Service Conference.
3. As a Third Legacy gathering living the Seventh Tradition, expenses are covered by the monies from registration.

#### Registration Form



## Appendix C - CERAASA Guidelines 2019 – for reference *continued*

### CERAASA Guidelines 2019

1. Produce and mail registration forms at least twice, once early and again six (6) weeks prior to the assembly date, utilizing the confidential mailing list provided by the preceding chairperson.
2. In addition, each current Eastern Regional Delegate will be given a minimum of 500 forms for distribution.

### Agenda

1. A program committee appointed by the CERAASA chairperson and utilizing the definition of purpose as a guideline will review topics submitted by areas through their current delegates and issues of concern to A.A. as a whole, in addition to specific items addressed by the upcoming General Service Conference.
2. A tentative agenda will be outlined and forwarded to areas through their delegates in November.
3. Ideally, the almost final agenda will be set by mid-January, leaving flexibility for any last minute unusual circumstances.

### Panels

1. The anonymity statement will be read before panels.
2. In general, each panel will consist of a moderator, a timer, a brief reading from a Concept or appropriate A.A. literature, 4-6 topics pre-assigned to reflect CERAASA's purpose, and to open floor discussions on these topics.
3. Topic presenters will be randomly selected from preregistered members from all ten (10) areas.
4. Emphasis for presenters should first be placed on GSRs, DCMs as well as other service people who have not previously participated in this capacity.
5. A specific time will be given to each topic. Presenters are encouraged to utilize written reports and notes.
6. All sharing from the floor will be firmly limited to two (2) minutes.
7. Once an area has hosted CERAASA, a period of five (5) years shall pass before that area may submit another bid.

### Expenses

1. After all expenses have been paid, a positive balance may exist. If the balance is \$0- \$2500.00, it will be sent to the delegate of the next host area within sixty (60) days after the close of each assembly. Any excess over the \$2500.00 shall remain with the current host area assembly.

### CERAASA Guidelines 2019

2. There must always be an amount of \$2500.00 to be forwarded to the incoming host area, to be used for start-up expenses for the next CERAASA. When the surplus available to forward to the next host area is less than \$2500.00, each of the ten (10) areas that comprise the Eastern Canada Region will contribute an equal amount that will restore the start-up fund to \$2500.00.
3. CERAASA establish and maintain a prudent reserve from surplus funds at each CERAASA, such prudent reserve shall not to exceed \$2500.00. (Approved February 21, 2015)

### Chairperson

The assembly chairperson should have a general overall knowledge of A.A. and experience with conventions, conferences or assemblies will be helpful. They should be willing to devote considerable time and effort for a period of about 13 months. Some of the chairperson's many responsibilities are as follows:

1. Make commitments and agreements only for the specific assembly, which they chair.
2. Select an assembly committee including secretary, treasurer and others as needed.
3. Arrange for the meeting place.
4. Determine how housing and transportation will be handled.
5. Produce and mail fliers at least twice: once early and again six (6) weeks prior to the assembly date. The mailing list furnished by the preceding chairperson should be kept confidential.
6. Notify Box 4-5-9, Grapevine, La Vigne and La Vina approximately four (4) months in advance.
7. Facilitate the development of a program to cover such aspects of A.A. as the General Service Conference agenda topics and other topics directly concerning A.A. Only A.A. members and trustees should participate in the CERAASA program. G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and other service people who have not been on a CERAASA program should be seriously considered for participation. Estimate 2.5 programs for each person expected at the assembly.
8. Provide literature needed. Good judgement will be used so that only Conference-approved literature, Grapevine, La Vigne, La Vina and local service material will be displayed or sold. No trinkets or tapes from other meetings are to be sold.
9. Submit a financial report to the area delegates and regional trustee within ninety (90) days from the close of the assembly.
10. Turn over to the current delegate of the next hosting area a copy of the financial report, funds as specified above, a mailing list and a copy of the business meeting minutes; and maintain a file of all letters, reports printed matter and other material pertaining to the assembly.

## Appendix D – CERAASA Guidelines Approved for Submission

### Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

#### **(CERAASA)**

#### **GUIDELINES**

##### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of CERAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and areas of the Eastern Canada Region and to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences.

The Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (CERAASA) is an opportunity for all A.A. members, especially General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), Area Committee members, to discuss General Service Conference agenda items and related issues and concerns affecting A.A. as a whole.

##### **SCHEDULE**

CERAASA is held the last weekend of February every two (2) years, in the odd numbered years, on a rotating basis among the ten (10) areas in the Eastern Canada region. CERAASA is a three-day event that begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday midday. The overall content of the weekend agenda includes panel meetings, open microphone sharing sessions, service presentations and speakers.

A business meeting is scheduled on Saturday afternoon dealing with the business of CERAASA only. All A.A. members are encouraged to attend this business meeting and to participate in voting.

Once an area has hosted CERAASA, a period of five (5) years shall pass before that area may submit another bid.

##### **COMPOSITION**

The current Delegates, current Alternate Delegates and the current Eastern Canada Regional Trustee comprise the Steering Committee of CERAASA. The regional boundaries are as designated in the A.A. Service Manual. The ten (10) areas of the Eastern Canada Region are as follows:

Area 81 New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island  
Area 82 Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador  
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International  
Area 84 Northeast Ontario  
Area 85 Northwest Ontario  
Area 86 Western Ontario  
Area 87 Southwest Quebec  
Area 88 Southeast Quebec  
Area 89 Northeast Quebec  
Area 90 Northwest Quebec

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##### **RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES**

Current Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Eastern Canada Regional Trustee

Current Delegates, Alternate Delegates and the current Trustee of the Eastern Canada Region have overall responsibility as the steering committee for CERAASA. All current delegates and alternate delegates of the region are strongly encouraged to attend.

Host Area

The Delegate who submitted the bid will be responsible for putting on the Assembly. The Delegate may serve as chairperson or appoint someone else.

The Host Area shall:

- Select and book a facility with economical food and lodging.
- Set registration cost to recover expenses, while being affordable
- Reimburse the costs for the Regional Trustee to attend
- Include the Regional Trustee in a panel where they can give a report
- Select the chairperson of CERAASA if the submitting Delegate declines or does not appoint another
- Organize the event including volunteers and shuttles
- Organize and distribute registration packages, including online presence
- the cost to attend is to be determined by the Host Committee as reviewed and agreed upon by the Steering Committee always keeping in mind that the registration fee be reasonably priced to encourage attendance by as many A.A. members as possible.

Chairperson

The CERAASA chairperson will among other matters

- Make commitments and agreements only for the specific assembly, which they chair.
- Select an assembly committee including secretary, treasurer and others as needed.
- Secure a location for the assembly.
- Determine how housing and transportation will be handled.
- Produce and send flyers at least twice: once early and again six (6) weeks prior to the assembly date. The mailing list furnished by the preceding chairperson should be kept confidential.

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- Notify Box 4-5-9, Grapevine, La Vigne and La Vina **approximately four (4) months in advance.**
- Facilitate the **development of a program** to cover such aspects of A.A. as the General Service Conference agenda topics and other topics directly **concerning A.A.** Only A.A. members and **trustees** should **participate** in the CERAASA program. G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and other service people who have not been on a CERAASA program should be seriously **considered for participation.**
- Provide an orientation session between the opening comments on Friday evening and the close of the activities on Saturday evening
- Hold a brief business session on Friday evening after the opening comments to discuss any pertinent issues relative to the current CERAASA
- Provide **literature** needed. Good **judgement** will be used so that **only Conference- approved literature as well as Grapevine, La Vigne, La Vina and local service material** will be displayed or sold. No trinkets or tapes from other meetings are to be sold.
- Submit a **financial report** to all members of the CERAASA Steering Committee within **ninety (90) days** from the close of the assembly.
- Turn over to the **current delegate** of the next hosting area a copy of the **financial report, funds, as specified in section FINANCIALS** of these guidelines, the **business meeting minutes;** and **maintain a file of all letters, reports printed matter and other material pertaining to the assembly.**

### Registration

Produce and distribute flyers at least twice, once early and again six (6) weeks prior to the assembly date to each member of the steering committee for distribution to their areas.

### Agendas

1. A program committee appointed by the CERAASA chairperson will review topics **submitted by areas through their current delegates** and issues of concern to A.A. as a whole, in addition to agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference.
2. A tentative agenda will be outlined and forwarded to the current delegates for approval in early January.
3. Ideally, agenda will be set by mid-January.

4. All discussion from the floor shall be limited to two (2) minutes per person and it is suggested that there be no re-attendance at the microphone until all others who wish have had their chance to speak. The chairperson of the Assembly may waive the time requirements in unusual circumstances or as required from time to time

### Agenda for Sunday Business Meeting (Duration: 1 ½ hours)

- Opening which shall include the chairman who
  - a) States that all business is by substantial unanimity
  - b) States that all discussion is 2 minutes per person
  - c) States that all motions are to be moved and seconded
- Read guidelines for the meeting
- Read then ask for a motion to accept the agenda
- Read then ask for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous CERAASA
- Read then ask for a motion to accept the financial report from the previous CERAASA
- Old Business (Pending items from previous CERAASA)
- BIDS for next CERAASA (Submitting members to provide a financial feasibility plan)
- New Business

### Notes

- Motions should be submitted in writing, at least 2 weeks before CERAASA to allow time for the agenda to be sent to registrants at least a week before CERAASA
- List motions in their entirety with rationale and/or background information to be sent to members before the CERAASA weekend so they can participate in an informed discussion.

### Panels

1. The **anonymity** statement will be read before panels.
2. In general, each panel will consist of a **moderator, a timer, a brief reading from a Concept or appropriate A.A. literature, 4-6 topics pre-assigned to reflect CERAASA's purpose,** and to open floor discussions on these topics.
3. **Emphasis for presenters to be placed on GSR's, DCM's, Delegates, Alternate Delegates, as well as other Area Service Committee members selected by the host committee to include an even participation as possible from all areas in the Eastern Canada Region selected from pre-registered members**
4. A specific time will be given to each topic. Presenters are encouraged to utilize written reports and notes.

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5. All sharing from the floor will be limited to two (2) minutes. The chairperson of the Assembly may waive the time requirements in unusual circumstances or as required from time to time
6. There shall also be an orientation session for Delegates and Alternate Delegates outlining the activities at the General Service Conference that shall be provided between the opening comments on Friday evening and the close of activities on Saturday evening

**Financials**

1. A Start Up Fund of \$2,500.00 was established at the start of CERAASA with each of the 10 Area's contributing \$250.00 (10 x \$250=\$2,500.00). This \$2,500.00 is to be known as "The Start Up Fund".
2. Funds in excess of the Start Up Fund after all expenses have been paid, not to exceed \$3,000.00, will be known as "The Prudent Reserve".
3. Any funds remaining above the \$5,500.00 (the Start Up Fund + the Prudent Reserve) are to be divided evenly between the 10 Area's.
4. In the case of a shortfall the 10 Area's will divide the amount needed to cover any outstanding expenses and restore the Start Up Fund to the original \$2,500.00.
5. The Start Up Fund and Prudent Reserve are to be forwarded to the next Hosting Area as soon as a bank account is established.