

Tammie opened meeting on Zoom at 9:30 am  
58 people logged in. Increased to 89 later in meeting.  
Tammie welcomed everyone. Group recited serenity prayer.  
Rename yourself designating 1 or 2 or V — voting, non-voting, visitor.  
Reviewed voting mechanisms via zoom. To be anonymous voting for Trustee.

### **Area officer reports**

#### **Delegate — Tad**

General service board authorized another drawdown on reserve including due to early retirements of staff. Contributions are setting records after requests to fellowship. Seventh tradition contributions are struggling throughout service structure. The committee on NERAASA is working. Dec 5 Eastern US/Canada forum is happening virtually. NERF 2021 will be held virtually; plans are progressing.  
Being delegate in these times is challenging — more to do because there are more meetings.

#### **Alt Chair — Guy**

Thanked Tammie and co-hosts, including District 7.  
Phone call 6 pm tomorrow night. Tentative 2021 schedule is up on website; looking to add Sundays. Asked DCMs to take note.  
Convention Oct 30-31. Committee is working on it. Still looking for participants and speaker. Speak to Dave, Past Delegate (convention program chair) or Matt, Webmaster.

#### **Secretary — Louise**

Tammie requested motion to accept minutes of September Fellowship day. Vote taken, no opposition; minutes accepted. Louise reminded group that she is taking minutes of one meeting only; not what is posted in chat.

#### **Treasurer — Adam**

We're negative \$10k for the year so far. That does not mean our bank account is negative, but rather we are spending more than what is coming in. In September we only brought in \$180 in contributions. We also only spent \$200. Contributions had been decreasing consistently since start of pandemic until October. October contributions so far are around \$2,000 which appears to be an anomaly. There is a proposal for the 2021 annual budget to be voted on later today. There is a proposal for an updated prudent reserve to be voted on today. Also Kate and I have created a cash flow analysis which will tell us what will happen and how soon we will run out of money if contributions continue to stay low or decrease. Kate and I are also working on a prototype for online contributions on the Area website. We are planning on having that ready to be voted on in May 2021.  
Motion to accept report made and seconded. Passed as presented.

#### **Alt Treasurer — Kate**

Chair of finance committee. Will be presenting proposed budget later today.  
Decided to not print meeting schedules. Will be presenting proposal to provide contact info for AA. Was not enough time to get out on web, will be asking assembly to consider voting on this proposal.

#### **Registrar — Gretchen**

Any group that needs to change its listing needs to go to Area website (click on find a meeting — bottom of page) and click on group change form and fill out completely before sending to

her. Provide as much info as you can. Change form goes to her, then she distributes to district. This is the easiest way to accomplish making this change.

Area Chair — Tammie

Need literature chair; reach out to Tammie if interested.

She tweaked a GSR toolkit app. Sent to all GSRs. Email Tammie for link. Has received good feedback — GSO pamphlets regarding groups.

Is considering sending out text reminders.

Some people went to a breakout room for a Panel: “Lessons Learned — Using the Traditions Today”

### **Service reports:**

Accessibility — Chrissy

Worked with Delhi to get blind person to participate in meeting. Working on email to DCMs to start communications with district accessibilities chairs.

Bridging the Gap — Matt

Recently a lot of activities — request forms returned for treatment and corrections. Several volunteers have signed up to be district chairs, about 6. Wants to get temporary contacts to be able to transition once in person. Sending people to virtual meetings and familiarize them with program.

CPC — Sally

Sent report to newsletter. Reports there every month in depth.

Has been participating in PI and CPC events around the country online.

DCMs please check with CPC chairs — there are only 3 or 4 people contacting her.

Working with treatment to create invitation to treatment centers.

Holds monthly conference call every 4th Thursday of each month. Don't have to be committee chair to attend.

Corrections — Carl

All activities suspended in jails and prison since March. Visitors now permitted so he expects possible relaxation for AA people.

Since we can't get into facilities, Area sent donations of literature to prison libraries. Sent to 17 prisons. Prison libraries are re-opened to prisoners.

Proposal in budget of \$3,500 — \$148 per facility. Similar to 2020 literature donations.

Corrections service directory is posted on Area 48 website.

Two Corrections workshops were held.

Literature sent varied by facility — soft covered Big Books.

Question about 2020 expenditure reflected in financial report. Response that it is listed in Treasurer's expense report.

Archives — Don

Would entertain requests for presentation. One District asked for help.

Grapevine — Delores

Recent Grapevine Story Hour. 40 people attended. Was recorded and is posted on Area website. Meetings are second Tuesday of month.

Will be more story hours — see website. Everyone can write for Grapevine or La Viña.

There are only 5 district grapevine reps. Asked DCMs to reach out to people and ask them to respond to her.

There is a Grapevine Live link on Area website, updated monthly.

Groups and districts can request material from her quickly and cheaply.

Newsletter — Cathy P

Thanked people who read. Apology for omitting a flyer submitted.

Public Info — Marcia

Only aware of handful of PI people in districts. Asked districts to tell her of chairs.

Monthly conference call.

Technology chair/webmaster — Matt

He is registration chair for convention.

Now doing maintenance and updates of website. Will look at streamlining and cleaning up website in future. Will post recovery information in addition to current service info.

Will be assembling a technology committee.

Home page includes PSA video produced by GSO. Check it out on way to register for convention!

Treatment — Kevin

Meeting first Tuesday of month 6 pm. All are invited to attend.

Speakers jam at Conifer Park. Many facilities are reluctant to bring in virtual meetings.

Conifer Park is interested in Bridging the Gap.

If Districts have extra money, suggests donations of literature to facilities.

Is contacting facilities offering remote meetings.

Convention — Matt & Dave

Registration is open.

Need volunteers for moderators, greeters, presenters, timers. Sent proposed program for posting on website. Let Dave know if you want to share on topics posted on website.

Name change committee — Deb

Has not met recently. Leaning towards recommending: Northeast NY. Considering cost of renaming nonprofit organization. Contact her if you have expertise in this.

Annual audit — No movement.

Ad hoc committee on hybrid meetings — Thea

Created document posted on website. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HRbtIL8kEbm191ehocpKIAIv1PoAeyjIxxJXZqMPsxM/edit>

Document contains suggestions for groups to consider in group conscience. Thea reviewed with the group. One successful model: Table at front of room with speakers and persons speaking coming up to table. Simple: only leader and speaker on screen.

Any questions or suggestions, send email to committee at: [hybrid@aahmbny.org](mailto:hybrid@aahmbny.org)

## **DCM Reports**

District 1 — Dana

All District positions except one filled. Passed 2021 budget. Things are going well. 30-35 people attend district meetings.

District 2 — Keith  
No report

District 4 — Cathy & Howard

One group closed. One new group is meeting only online. Can't post that meeting because of rule that group without prior physical address can't get posted. Will hold Thanksgiving alkathon in Gloversville, Club 24 clubhouse, Wednesday through Thanksgiving. Meetings on odd hours starting at 7:00 pm Wednesday. Dinner being served, CDC recommendations to be followed. Games. Family-friendly event.

District 7 — Shane

Dozen people generally at business meeting. Have new Alt DCM. Have new BTG chair. Not spending much money, and not much in contributions either. Meetings are opening up, that bring challenges. Seems to be going well when opening in person.

District 8 — George

Doing okay. Have money but membership is scattered and divided. Have treatment meeting.

District 11 — Chris & Lindsey

Working on website, including in-person meetings. Talking about forming panel for people trying to open in-person meetings.

District 12 — Cindy

First face-to-face district meeting held in October. 14 people attended, which is unusual for them. Holding elections next month. Have some zoom meetings, and some face-to-face.

District 13 — Cait

Meeting virtually. Light attendance. Four open positions. Have volunteers for Inventory Day; is working on getting more. Some face-to-face meetings are opening. Trial of hotline through central office.

District 16 — Allen

Members are very active in service. District meets virtually. Most AA meetings are on zoom; a few in-person and a couple hybrid meetings; working well. Some outdoor meetings are moving back to zoom, a few are meeting indoors. Hard to keep meeting schedules accurate. Planning district events virtually. Treasury doing okay — not spending a lot; not taking in a lot. Taking Venmo contributions along with some groups. Some chairs open. Has seen people getting sober via zoom — so not impossible.

District 15 — Glenn

Made donation to GSO. 10-12 members attend district meetings. One group has gone in-person.

District 17 — Kelly

Working on 2021 budget. Third year with budget. Rotating several positions; recruiting for new positions. Have a couple face-to-face meetings and a hybrid meeting starting. Have healthy treasury because little expenses. Last three months have received healthy donations from virtual baskets.

District 18 — Linda

Recent monthly meeting had low attendance. Held elections; several positions unfilled. Many meetings went in person; all at same church. Decided to not hold Thanksgiving alkathon. Only two donations since February. Concerned about treasury because there are expenses.

District 19 — Don

Meeting as hybrid district meeting. Two meetings have gone in person. Have meetings in crisis center.

[Break]

Tammie reviewed voting procedures and Zoom functions

Tammie announced:

Election for Candidate for Trustee at Large Class B

To be filled at Annual Meeting in April

Class B — see service manual p. S-66

All 93 Areas are invited to submit a candidate

Tammie polled past delegates to ask if interested. All declined, except Don S. Panel 68.

Secretary cast voted for Don S. for Trustee.

Don S. became our candidate for Trustee at large.

Question raised whether should be delayed until scheduled time to re-start meeting

Don S. addressed group.

### **Budget Presentation and Discussion — Kate**

Proposed budget was prepared by Finance Committee. Met since February, went through several iterations. COVID presented planning difficulties. Prepared budget as if in person so we are prepared to make expenditures. Working on cash flow projections to ensure we have enough money for expenditures. All amounts are what were used last year, with some additions.

Kate presented revised budget posted on website in August. Version 4.

Sections: A - Area officers and committee chairs

B - all other expenses, broken up in service, administrative.

Categories and order match the budget actual reports going forward.

Section A —

Major changes: NERAASA and NERF being held virtually

Resulted in close to \$9,000 reduction in expenses versus last year

NYSIW — will fund officers because Area is hosting

Convention is funded

Section B —

Reorganized to match treasurer's reports.

Clustered literature. We print a lot.

Prison literature requested by Corrections Chair.

HMB Service manual increased due to ad hoc committee working on this.

Meeting schedules — may be reduced if resolution offered today passes

Area-funded service workshops — approved last October. Funded only if we have a surplus.

New item: NAATW conference for technology chair

Correction: Subtotal A — is a formula error which excludes \$750.

\$67,745 total — total expenses match income

Expect group contributions based on need.

Tammie: Budget will be amended and considered approved as amended if resolutions to be voted on later are approved.

Questions asked and answered:

Projected income from group contributions are based on previous years' budgets/ meeting in person, but reductions based on NERAASA and NERF not being held.

Archive expense item does not include expense for replacements; just storage rental.

Should group contributions be based on 2020 actual? Spiritual perspective: base on need.

Would like to know group contributions — \$20,000 to date

We request nonprofit fee on programs

Post office — includes handling and forwarding charge

Prison literature increase — Carl: \$148 per facility

Suggest friendly amendment: change “donation” to extra contribution — section B — GSO Conference Contribution.

Computer purchase — 6 computers in use by officers. Precaution allocation. Add comment indicating which service positions have computers and note that budget amount is contingency replacement of one PC.

Income: 2019 seed money — corrected to 2020

Is prison literature for 24 facilities in Area? Yes.

Can request additional allocation from Finance Committee.

Computer replacement expense was based on consultation. Discussion about cost of new computer.

Vote on budget:

Budget as presented with a few line description changes.

69 voting members in attendance. Need 43 for 2/3 vote.

One “no” vote. Asked for minority opinion. GSR — home group voted “no.”

Budget approved.

### **Proposals:**

Proposal #1 — Proposal to add new district — District 20. Presented by Gretchen, Registrar. Proposal moved and second.

Questions and comments:

Tad reached out to GSO on this — historically everything has been location-based; GSO is aware that virtually may be in the future and are thinking about how to incorporate.

If group is virtual and in District 20 and then becomes actual — up to group conscience. This allows all groups to be heard in conformance with upside-down triangle.

One advantage is to help with accessibilities issues such as if GSR cannot get into an actual meeting; group has a voice.

Hoping that GSO figures out how to list virtual meetings without need for physical address.

Allows for groups to split between virtual and in-person meetings.

Option available for online only groups. May have to feel our way through in this new way.

Question was called and seconded.

Vote on whether to vote or continue discussion. Had to be re-done because person who called question also commented.

Assembly voted to go to vote.

Proposal passed by 2/3 vote.

12 people voted no. Tammie asked for minority view.

Minority: too many unanswered questions, including how GSO will handle. Even though online meetings are great, not really part of a district.

Several people indicated they want to change their vote based on minority opinions.

Vote on whether to go back to discussion passed by majority vote.

Further discussion and questions asked and addressed.

Question was called. Vote on calling the question passed. 62-5.

Vote on proposal:

39 yes

30 no

Does not pass. Lack 2/3 majority.

Tammie: sounds like we want this but want more information. Will look into putting together an ad hoc committee. Reach out to Tammie if you want to help out on this.

Proposal # 2 — Separate the combined position of Chair/Alternate Delegate into two separate service positions of (1) Chair and (2) Alternate Delegate.

The proposal was read aloud in full.

Motion seconded. Open for discussion.

Pro: presents difficulty trying to do both tasks — can't meet with other area chairs if also focused on alt delegate. Ability to vote out bad chair not moving to delegate.

Anti: Worked well in the past. Not clear how this will affect budget. Not overwhelming to do both jobs simultaneously. Serving as chair prepares person well to serve as delegate.

Question called and seconded.

Vote on whether to vote or continue discussion. Passed to go to vote.

Vote on proposal:

48 no

20 yes

Tammie asked for minority opinion.

Proposal is defeated.

Proposal # 3 — Increase prudent reserve — Kate presented, sponsored by Finance Committee.

Would be formula of 33% of preceding three years rather than unchanging amount of \$7,000.

Increased prudent reserve will get us through first quarter of a year when income is low.

Formula allows for adjustment of budget to be based on increased expenses.

Discussion: Concern that Area has been keeping an excess amount of money. Prudent reserve does not change budget; just affects money in the bank. Concern about adhering to corporate poverty.

Motion to increase prudent reserve to \$10,000 and be reevaluated and report back in one year.

There was a discussion held on extending the meeting past 3:30 pm. A motion was made to extend to 4:00 pm. Seconded, voted and passed.

Finance Committee went to breakout room to consider whether the accept motion as friendly. Committee does not accept motion as a friendly amendment.

Motion was seconded.

Discussion held on the proposal to modify proposal:

Using current budget results in faulty formula because expenses during COVID reduced actual expenses. Finance committee makes decision whether to dip into prudent reserve on own authority or could come to assembly.

This is not an amendment, but rather a different proposal of a fixed monetary amount. Finance committee proposal was to ask for a percentage to move up and down over time.

Question to parliamentarian to decide whether a valid proposal — No, not a valid proposal.

Can be brought back at another time.

Return to discussion of original proposal.  
Member called the question; seconded.  
Vote on whether to vote on proposal.  
55 yes 5 no

Vote on proposal:  
31 yes; 25 no  
(Need 45 for 2/3 vote)  
Proposal does not pass.

Minority opinion: people focused on physical size rather than percentage. Attempt to catch up to where we would have been if there had been increases over time. Flat figures do not mean anything in time of crisis or inflation. This proposal was sound accounting/financial principle of percentage of expenditures. Defer to expertise of committee members who carefully considered this proposal.  
Tammie asked if minority opinions caused anyone to change vote. Yes.

Vote on reconsideration/re-open discussion on proposal:  
Yes 31  
No 29  
Vote to reopen proposal for discussion passes.

Discussion on proposal, re-opened:  
Percentage is too high. Opposed to \$21,000 amount.

Motion to table proposal to next Assembly.  
Vote passes, tabling motion to May.

Tammie — next two proposals did not meet 3 months' notice requirement.

Proposal # 4 — Meeting schedule  
Motion to hear proposal made and seconded.  
Kate presented proposal. Cancel printing of 2021 meeting schedule and instead provide tri-fold brochure and provide link on Area website to print or download info.  
Cost: \$797 printing plus \$324 for distribution for total \$1,121.  
Have \$750 in budget set aside for printing for committee members. Kate showed graphic mock-up. Question whether impact by printer. Kate contacted printer and printing pamphlet will have no impact. Quoted price is that printer's price.

Motion to call the question. Not needed, parliamentarian asked.  
Vote on proposal:  
51 yes  
0 no's

Past 4 o'clock.  
Motion to postpone last proposal — revision to Area 48 service manual — to May Assembly.  
Bill says committee can wait until next Assembly.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Passed by verbal vote.

Group closed with responsibility pledge.  
Meeting ended at 4:08 pm



Respectfully submitted,

Louise R., Area 48 Secretary ❤️