

MINUTES

CHICAGO AREA SERVICE ASSEMBLY (CASA) Saturday, November 19th, 2022

Hosted by District 7 and on Zoom

ACTIONS TAKEN

- M/S/P to approve agenda after adding in an announcement from ISCYPA & We are Not Saints representatives
- M/S/P to approve minutes from September 17th, 2022
- M/S/P from the Finance Committee to vote on the proposed 2023/2024 term budget as presented to the groups in September 2022
- M/S/P from the Structure Committee that the Anti-Harassment policy be sent out to the Groups for approval as CASA policy, with inclusion in *Chicago AA: How It Works For You*, and to be voted on at the January CASA
- M/S/P from the Structure Committee to send out to the groups for approval and to be voted at the January CASA, with inclusion in *Chicago AA: How It Works For You*, the purpose of the Technology Committee (Inclusion noted in New Business below)
- 1:00pm Welcoming Statement - Laura B. (Area Chair) opened assembly with voting registration and an overview of Zoom functionality.
- Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
- Reading of Concepts 1 and 12 and Traditions 1, 2, 9, and 12
- Approval of Minutes from September 17th, 2022 CASA
- 7th Tradition – chicagoaa.org/contribute or Venmo (@ChicagoAA), PayPal or Zelle
- Recognition of Anniversaries of a year or more
- Area 19 Officer and Office Manager Reports

CASA Chair – Laura B.

- Laura has attended committees and district meetings and witnessed the love and joy they hold when they do the work to carry this message to this still suffering alcoholic.
- Laura reported that the Illinois State Conference, hosted by Area 20 was not self-supporting. The three Areas in Illinois operate under *The Guidelines & Procedure Digest* which states that all 3 areas in the state share equally in any excess revenues or expenses exceeding revenues (losses). The conference had a loss of \$12,537. Area 19's portion is \$3,393. This will go as a liability incurring in 2022, not the 2023 budget. More discussion will be held at the January Finance Committee meeting. Those interested are welcome to attend Finance. Discussions held at January's Finance will be reported to the Fellowship at January's CASA..
- Shares her gratitude for allowing Laura to be of service and to express the optimism and excitement that she has for those incoming. Recalling all zoom CASAs and then to hybrid. Thanked, the 2021-2022 Area Officers for making it doable and working hard, making it fun.
- Thanked GSRs, DCMs, encouraging them to remain of service. Committees that need support as well.

- Please, at any time feel free to contact Laura at casa@chicagoaa.org. The position will then be passed to Ruben G.

CASA ALT Chair - Ruben G.- verbal report

- The sharing session was conducted by 24 hour AA Answering Service Committee; included tasks at hand to be a volunteer via phone or chat function.
- The January Assembly will start 1 hour earlier due to hosting facility has another function and the assembly needs to end by 3:00pm. The sharing session will begin at 10am, lunch from 11:30 - 12:00 and the assembly will begin at Noon.
- The March assembly hosting district is unable to host, Ruben will work on alternate location.

GSC DELEGATE - Monica F. verbal with written report

Monica shares: For the last two years is has been an honor to serve as the voice of Area 19 A.A. Members and the conduit to the our three boards, General Service Board (GSB), Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS), Inc., and The Grapevine Inc. I have spent the last 8 years of my sobriety serving Area 19 as an Area Officer holding a variety of positions and learning so much. All of you have taught me how to love unconditionally and to practice patience, love, tolerance, kindness, responsibility, and the spirit of invitation. As I rotate off, I know that Area 19 Chicagoland A.A. is in good hands.

I have faith and confidence in your incoming Area 19 Delegate Tom F. There were three things I wanted to accomplish as your Area Delegate; The first was to help encourage the utilization of the word "contribution". Our A.A. literature and the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous state contribution; as the word donation is not found in our A.A. literature. I encourage you to use the language that is specifically listed in our Conference Approved Literature as you continue to carry the message.

The second was to increase communication. Communication is extremely important, but what is even more critical is accurate communication of information. Communication in A.A. can be challenging for a variety of reasons We encourage Area 19 to go to the source to gather details. Visit www.chicagoaa.org Subscribe to Box 459 from GSO. Attend the Pre – and Post – Conference Forums and Reports. Read the Final Conference Report and the Advisory Actions to understand what actions the General Service Conference took for the future of A.A. Very grateful that our Chicago Area Service Office (CASO) Manager Katie M. assisted with the set up and design of the Area 19 Delegate webpage. I am grateful to the groups that invited me to share information and to the DCM's who found the time on their agendas.

The third thing that I wanted to do as Delegate was to increase participation. Participation allows for harmony and unity. Participation starts with you and the spirit of invitation. The first Area 19 service commitment I had was secretary for the Illinois State Conference. The Chair of the Conference at the time reached out and invited me to join the committee. She said you look like you are organized, will you be our secretary? Then from there, members in Area 19 began to ask me if they could nominate me for additional commitments.

In my opinion, for participation to be successful we need the spirit of invitation. Are we taking the right actions to invite others to participate in Area and General Service? Did you come here alone, or did you invite someone to come with you?

My wish for Area 19 is that we increase participation.

Many of you ask what I will be doing next. Time will show me where I am needed and God will show me where my skills and talents are best used for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. You will see me on A.A. campus. I do plan to continue to attend CASA, as every Area 19 Past Chair and Past Delegate have a vote and I will continue to facilitate the 2-hour Area Sharing Sessions the second Wednesday of the month.

Before my report, details about Area 19, East Central Region (ECR), The General Service Conference (GSC), GSB, etc etc. I would like to pass on some suggestions.

For those of you that are rotating in for your next service commitment and taking a little bit more insurance out in your sobriety - Congratulations. Concept 9 is all about leadership and reads, "We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills will make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us."

I suggest the following:

- Invite others to join you.
- Listen like you want your mind changed.
- We are responsible. We have said yes, now mean it. Prepare, start on time, end on time, and have consistency.
- Bring your recovery to your service work.
- Act God consciously as we cease fighting anyone and anything.
- The services that CASO, AAWS, GV, and LV provide are not free, they do have a cost associated with them. We have no dues or fees; yet if you are available, consider contributing to all.
- Practice a program of attraction.

Always remember why we are here; our Fifth Tradition and primary purpose - to carry the message to the alcoholic that is still suffering.

For the most recent and accurate information visit the Area 19 Delegates Web Page. <http://www.chicagoaa.org/delegates-page/> Members Only Section Password is **06101935**

Thank you for the opportunity as it has been an absolute pleasure to serve. General Service is a wonderful opportunity to give and help with the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Personally, I have found much growth with my character defects. These last two years I have been given amazing opportunities to choose character over comfort and I am grateful for that.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly (gsc@chicagoaa.org) or the Alternate Delegate Sean K. (alt- gsc@chicagoaa.org) and invite us to visit your meeting, group, district, or Area Service Committee meeting. We welcome the opportunity to meet with Area 19 Members.

After December 15th use my personal email address: monifra1941@gmail.com

Area 19

At the 72nd GSC an advisory action was passed for a 2022 A.A. Membership surveys. These survey's were facilitated by the General Service Office (GSO) Public Information Desk and the 93 Area Delegates. In September and October 547 randomly selected groups that were registered with GSO were invited to complete a digital or physical survey of 19 questions that had been approved by GSC. Thank you to Sean K. Alt Delegate whom assisted with the Area 19 survey's. area 19 had 13 groups participate. Results will be published after being approved by the 73rd GSC.

East Central Region (ECR)

Our Service Manual states that A Region is "A grouping of several areas from which a regional trustee comes to the board of trustees. There are six regions in the US and two in Canada. Area 19 Chicagoland A.A. is part of the East Central Region often referred to as ECR. There are 14 Areas that make up ECR from the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

Our ECR Trustee Cathi C. continues to host monthly ECR Delegate Meetings that provide updates and well as opportunities for the 14 Areas to come together. Cathi is serving as the Vice Chair for AAWS Board and after the 73rd GSC will become chair of AAWS.

Upcoming Regional Events

2023 – ECR Conference of Delegates Past & Present – Columbus, OH Feb 10-12th 2023

– hosted by Area 53 2023 – ECR Forum November 17-19, 2023 - Double Tree – 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, OH 44131

2025 - The 90th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be celebrated at the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada, July 3 – 6, 2025

General Service Conference (GSC)

The GSC is the annual corporate business meeting for US & Canada Alcoholics Anonymous.

At GSC, decisions are made by substantial unanimity through a group conscience vote on important items about the future of AA. Minority Opinion is always offered the option to be heard therefore these decisions are made with the full authority of the Fellowship and with more than 2/3's vote.

It is essential for A.A. Members to participate in the annual General Service Conference and share your opinions. Participation is the key to harmony and unity.

At the General Service Conference, we discuss making the program of Alcoholics Anonymous available to anyone and everyone. When we review agenda items that may not have a direct effect on Chicagoland A.A., please keep in mind:

In Area 19 Chicagoland we are so blessed. We have consistent internet. We have access to 2500 weekly meetings. We have a Central Office that assists with helping make twelve step work possible. Many of us have emotional sobriety and a life beyond anything we could have possibly imagined.

There were 184 proposed agenda items submitted for consideration. The GSB has asked for feedback from the Delegates and will be releasing the final list after the January GSB board weekend meeting on approximately February 15th. The Area 19 Delegate will conduct Pre-Conference Forums and Meetings to meet with any Area 19 A.A. Member to provide feedback.

When background information is provided, the Delegate will pass this on as well.

The final conference report for the 72nd GSC has been released. The digital report is available on the Delegates webpage and we have physical copies available at no charge.

Just a brief summary: At the 72nd GSC we had a fruitful and successful Conference.

There have been no changes to the first 164 pages and the 12x12 had no changes at the 72nd GSC. All updates of the 12x12 from the 71st passed with 2/3rd substantial unanimity will remain. Our Service Manual will have updates in Chapters 8-12 due to how GSO communicates with the A.A. Fellowship and to reflect how GSO operates today.

One 72nd GSC Advisory Action in regard to translation is that ALL background information for the GSC will be provided in 3 languages at the same time.

The Preamble was discussed and unanimously voted to remain with the change using the word “people”. Tradition Four states that every group has the right to be autonomous, so you may use the new Preamble, the old one, or none. In the spirit of Tradition Two, we suggest taking an informed group conscience before making any decisions. Please be respectful of the decisions that a group makes.

The General Service Conference is a year-round event and takes a lot of planning, therefore it is time to start considering agenda items for the 74th GSC in 2024. Any A.A. Member may submit an agenda item.

If interested, please fill out the form with 7 questions at www.aa.org and all background information will need to be submitted at the same time. Agenda items for the 74th GSC are Due Sept 15, 2023.

“What types of proposals, suggestions or ideas rise to the level of needing a General Service Conference “action” or “decision”? Proposals that are important to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, policy decisions or request for changes to Conference-approved literature and items that might require the collective conscience of the Fellowship. The trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions about the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items. Warranty six reminds us “that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government...” The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service page 72.

The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service states on page S57 that: The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by individual A.A. members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, and directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine. The Conference considers matters of policy for A.A. as a whole, and there are tried-and-true procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way — or, when the suggestion does not concern overall policy, for routing it to the most appropriate part of the service structure.

When submitting an agenda item consider the following:

- Is this something that is needed?
- Is this something that is needed for ALL of Alcoholics Anonymous or for only a few?
- Is this an item of large policy or finance?
- Does this exist elsewhere / anywhere already?
- How long ago did the GSC and the Trustees’ review this item?
- What Group Conscience has been gathered about this item?
- What support background information do you have?
- What support background information that is Alcoholics Anonymous do you have?
- Agenda Items are clear, specific, and with minimal word count
- Agenda items are not opinionated
- Use caution with dates, mandates, and micromanaging

General Service Board (GSB)

The General Service Board contains 21 Trustees of which 14 are Class B (B for Boozers) and 7 are Class A (non-alcoholic). The Trustees are the recipients of our Seventh Tradition contributions and they are the custodians of our A.A. Traditions. The mission of the GSB: Our mission is to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups, which will assist in clarifying some of the composition factors of online groups asked the 91 Delegates to complete a survey on our Area's virtual participation. I submitted a response on behalf of Area 19.

The board met in October and is still working on the directions from the GSC, which are in the form of advisory actions. Finance is continuing to meet and our CFO is on the 3rd draft of the 2023 budget. This budget will be approved at the January 2023 board meeting and presented to the fellowship at the 73rd GSC.

As a board there is constant discussion of reducing expenses as supply chain costs increase. Alcoholics Anonymous is a business While we practice the corporate policy of poverty and we want to just be self- supporting; we are a \$18M business. We are looking at a variety of ways to reduce costs.

Finance

In order to be fully self-supporting and cover our negative deficit with the budget for Alcoholics Anonymous it is suggested that every A.A. Member make a **one time Seventh Tradition Contribution of \$6.06**. There are no dues or fees in Alcoholics Anonymous. The services that are offered do have expenses and costs associated with them, so it is not free. From the September Quarterly GSO Report:

A.A.W.S.

Literature Update – New jacketless format of the hardcover Big Book and hardcover Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions will be released soon. This jacketless format will replace the jacketed version for the foreseeable future. The new format is the result of our ongoing efforts to more effectively extend the hand of A.A. to our members and the still suffering alcoholic via our literature — specifically our beloved basic text, the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, along with our co- founder Bill W.'s much admired *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The change is due to a more cost effective solution. This is not the first instance that printing supplies have necessitated adapting the format of the Big Book. During World War II, to conform with directives from the U.S. government to all publishers to decrease paper consumption in their publications, the Big Book's trim size was reduced in 1945. Samples of this "wartime Big Book" edition are on display at the G.S.O. Archives in New York City. As publishing supplies continue to increase and we will most likely see a small increase to the cost of literature in 2023.

From the September Quarterly GSO Report:

Looking for stories for Fourth Edition of the Big Book Alcoholicos Anonimos – Due Dec 15, 2022. Email 4LGHistorias@aa.org HYPERLINK "mailto:4LGHistorias@aa.org" HYPERLINK "mailto:4LGHistorias@aa.org" HYPERLINK "mailto:4LGHistorias@aa.org" subject line Fourth Edition Spanish. We will be looking for stories outside the US and Canada as well since the Spanish population is largely outside of the 93 Areas.

General Service Office - GSO

G.S.O. coordinates many services that help groups and members fulfill their purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers, and aa.org plays an important role in that work. GSO has added 3 new staff members. Joining us in September, Karina is on the Group Services assignment and Michael is on the CPC assignment. Our newest staff member, Misha, who joined us on October 17, is on the Treatment/Accessibility assignment. There will be more about Karina, Michael, and Misha in a future Box 4-5-9 article

GSO has extended the deadline for submissions of bids for the 2035 International Convention to December 15th.

A great place to get the most accurate and updated information is through Box 459 – our Fellowship newsletter published quarterly from the U.S./Canada General Service Office. There is no charge to subscribe. <https://www.aa.org/box-459>

2025 International Convention, Alcoholics Anonymous will be in Vancouver, BC, Canada July 3-6 2025.

We will be celebrating 90 years of A.A. and the theme is “90 Years – Language of the Heart.”

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

VANCOUVER, BC JULY 3-6, 2025

90 Years – Language of the Heart

Please make sure to review restrictions and regulation when traveling to Canada. Registration will be available in early 2024

Kindly take a few minutes and complete the survey below. Your participation is important and will help us come to an informed decision. We want to know the preferences of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

Survey closes on December 15, 2022

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/A2CsPb>

Open Positions

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees, from the Northeast and Southwest regions as well as the trustee at-large/Canada will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2023.

U.S./Canada area delegates only must send the name and contact information of their candidate to the secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee no later than January 1, 2023.

Corrections Update

It was delightful to attend the 2022 National Corrections Conference hosted by Area 19,20,21. Thank you to the committee and our Area 19 Corrections Committee for assisting with a just beautiful event.

Area 19 was present at the National Corrections Conference and shared about the prepaid mailer program that was initiated in 2020. Allison from our committee shared about her experience. What was really relevant was her comments that the mail will always continue. If meetings are canceled because of incidents and confinement lock down happens, a person in custody will always have their mail as mail is considered personal property. Are you available to write letters and correspond with someone who is in custody? Are you able to provide some hope and strength for someone and some personal property in the form of a letter?

It is really important with corrections work to develop a relationship with the facility coordinators and to understand the rules of engagement; which is basically the do's and the don'ts. When we bring meetings into facilities, we are guests and we want to make sure we are asked back. A.A. doesn't stop at the gate.

Corrections Digital Tablet Update Find more info on the Delegate's webpage on CASO's website

Corrections GSO Desk Update - Find more info on the Delegate's webpage on CASO's website

GV / LaVina Update from a Corrections Perspective - Find more info on the Delegate's webpage on CASO's website

Option for Outreach for Workshops or Events

Contact Grapevine if your Area, District, Group, or meeting is planning any online virtual events ea@agrapevine.org Did you know there is a calendar of events at www.agrapevine.org?

To submit all stories: <https://www.agrapevine.org/share>

Upcoming Events

Sunday's weekly - International Corrections Committee Call - 1st Sunday and Last Sunday 5pmCT and all other Sundays 10amCT - Zoom ID 841 1036 5604 Passcode: 223531 Email internationalcorrections@gmail.com

Wednesday December 14th - Area Sharing Session – Topic Spirit of Rotation - Virtual Workshop 6pm-8pmCT Zoom ID: 939 9669 5131 PC: 899549

Monica F

A19/P71 Delegate to GSC gsc@chicagoaa.org

Larry Eagan, Area 19 Finance Committee Chairman

The Finance Committee met Thursday, November 10, 2022, at CASO and optional video conferencing capability was available for those unable to attend the meeting in person.

We heard Katie M's Office Manager Report, which is included elsewhere in the CASA Meeting materials.

The Finance Chairman reported as follows.

- Prudent Reserve - As of October 31, 2022, the numbers are as follows:
 - Prudent Reserve – 7.6 months (within the 7 – 10-month target)
 - Total Available Funds – 9.7 months (within the 9 - 12-month target)
- Financial Results through October 31, 2022
- Overall results show a Net Loss in the amount of \$95,036 for the 10 months. However, compared to the budgeted loss of \$113,356 there is a positive variance of \$18,320. This is primarily due to savings in Payroll, related taxes and Group Insurance Expenses.
- Group and individual contributions are summarized as follows:

	Actual	Actual	2022	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Group	162,976	167,899	177,500	(9,601)
Individual	<u>93,099</u>	<u>62,899</u>	<u>70,833</u>	<u>(7,934)</u>
Total	256,075	230,798	248,333	(17,535)

Both categories are below the budgeted amounts and the amounts in the variance column are about the same as they were at the end of both June and August. Individual contributions include income received through the Birthday Plan and Faithful Friends

initiatives launched in the spring of 2021. The amounts received from these sources for the ten-month period are:

Birthday Plan \$ 1,523

Faithful Friends \$ 28,417

Total \$ 29,940

- Bookstore – Net Income from the bookstore for the 10-month period is \$53,050, which is \$10,550 better than the budgeted Net Income of \$42,500. The actual Net Margin remains 25.6%, which is the same as reported on August 31.
- The Audit Committee met October 13, 2022, to review the audited Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2021, issued by ORBA along with their Report to Management concerning their findings during the course of the audit.

It was noted that ORBA issued a clean opinion in their Audit Report meaning they did not find any significant errors or problems during the course of their audit.

It was also noted that in the Report to Management, ORBA said that they did not see or find anything that caused them any concern as to the validity or accuracy of the system of internal control and they did not offer any suggestions for improvement.

Finally, ORBA reported that they made 2 insignificant adjustments to the books which resulted in a net increase in the profit for the year 2021 in the miniscule amount of \$15.27. Most significantly, neither of those entries had anything to do with Inventory, which for so long was a matter of concern. This says to me that all the hard work that was done over the past few years to invest in and install a state-of-the-art bookkeeping and reporting system along with the development of procedures and discipline to maintain a perpetual inventory system utilizing daily cycle-counting has achieved the desired result. We now have an accurate Inventory system on which we can rely. I think our Office Manager and her staff deserve an acknowledgment of this achievement and I extend my thanks for a job well-done.

The October 13 meeting of the Audit Committee concluded with a motion to make a report to the full Finance Committee that the meeting was held to review the audited 2021 Financial Statement and no problems were seen.

- Election of Officers for the 2023/2024 term

Nominees were Finance Committee Chairman: Mike Lynch

Alternate Finance Committee Chairman: Ross Meyer

A motion was made and seconded to elect these 2 individuals to the respective positions by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be 7PM, Thursday, January 12, 2023, at CASO. All members are invited to attend.

You may contact me at Finance@chicagoaa.org.

Larry Eagan, Finance Committee Chairman

Katie M. Office Manager Report

Informational Items:

Thanksgiving Appeal: Letters were sent to 3,498 members. We spend weeks sorting ever way we could think, including manually going through the list to remove any duplicates. Merge lists from different programs and formats, so if you got two, pass one on. If you received 2 because of slight difference in spelling, please let us know so we can correct. Postage was Roughly \$600

Cyber Liability Insurance: Our cyber liability insurance increase, it will be \$950 annually. (Increase of \$100)

Meeting Directory: Our meeting directory is currently, one booklet for both City & Suburban. They Cost \$2.00

UPS: Shipping rates are increasing by 5.9% starting late December.

Health Insurance: Our Premium will raise by 4.8%, but out-of-pocket and co-pays will decrease slightly.

Website: Our online Bookstore "Theme" was flagged for violation of copyrighted material, therefore a cease and desist was issued. We had no online platform, until resolved (So we lost a few days of online sales). I was able to make this right, no damages or arrears paid. Just \$350 for license.

HR Items: State of IL is requiring us to offer some type of retirement saving plan option, by mid-year 2023. Also looking into CTA commuter program (Pretax deduction program), lastly our employee handbook was reviewed by lawyer and I have pages of updates to make.

Website: Looking into removing some Plug-Ins. Some Plug-Ins created when site updated in 2019, we can not access to change and do not have credentials. Working on ISC registration Page, target is to have live after ACO.

If you noticed something on our site that needs our attention:
website_updates@chicagoaa.org

Copiers: Continued to meet with vendors, will have numbers in January, our least is up end of February. We will go month to month until we decide.

Email Blasts: Starting January, we will send bi-monthly emails of events and information through constant Contact only (The Buzz), to any interest member. CASA materials will no longer include flyer attachments. By doing this we can reduce the size and be less likely to flagged as Spam or promotions.

ACO: The 7th Tradition collections totaled \$7,396, with expenses of \$10,217. The Attendance estimate is 1,000 and the bookstore had a loss of \$285. CD's of the Speakers will be available in the bookstore ASAP. I have the file, but my new computer at the office does not burn CD's

Group & Fellowship Services:

Sept & Oct.	
New GSR's	13
New Alts	3

2022 Directories: We have begun printing directories; online meetings are not list but includes instructions how to access them. one booklet for both City & Suburban. They Cost \$2.00

Service Rotation: We need to get you registered, please let us know if you rotate in OR out of your position.

Meeting Details: Whether it's your committee or district we would like to ensure we have the correct information listed, please share the details with us.

Bookstore/Bookkeeping:

Group Contributions: Group Contributions are Up for the year. Year to date numbers total \$167,899. This is an increase of \$4,923 or up 3% compared to last year at this time.

Individual Contributions: Individual Contributions are down for the year. Year to date numbers total \$62,899 This is a decrease of \$30,201 or down 32% compared to last year.

Here How: Subscription are down for the year. Year to date numbers total \$1,324. This is a decrease of \$160 or down 11% compared to last year.

Bookstore Sales: The year-to-date sales total \$207,271 Compared to last year's total, that's an increase of \$40,963 or up 25% compared to last year.

Area 19 Service Committee Reports

Correctional Facilities Committee [CFC] Report verbal and written

The Pandemic has directly affected the committee's primary activity of bringing meetings into correctional facilities.

The facilities otherwise normally served by our committee are Sheridan, Statesville State prisons, the female, male, and Spanish-speaking divisions of Cook County jail, Cook County drug court, Crossroads and North Lawndale transitional centers, Joliet treatment center.

The message is normally carried by bringing meetings into the facilities, supplying, and distributing AA literature, processing postal requests for AA literature, administering inmate correspondence programs, and supervising our re-entry program in preparation of members' release- directly introducing them to AA on the outside.

Our 2 Adult transitional facilities have allowed us to resume our regularly scheduled weekly meetings.

CCDOC Men's Divisions in-person meetings have resumed.

CCDOC Women Divisions in-person meetings have resumed. Also, Virtual Meetings

IDOC only JTC has allowed us to resume since the beginning of the Pandemic.

We've continued throughout the year to send literature to the facilities or individuals when requested.

Our Correspondence Pen Pal / Re-entry has been a continuance way for us as a committee to Carry the Message to those who are incarcerated.

Area 19 CFC will be hosting the 2022 National Corrections Conference along with Area 20 & 21 on Nov. 9-11, 2022, in Schaumburg IL.

Our CFC committee has held elections for committee positions, all positions are filled for the upcoming new year.

Matt G. will be the next CFC Chair starting 2023

Thank you for this wonderful experience and allowing me to be of Service!

CFC Next meeting will be held Dec. 8th at CASO

Thank you for allowing me to be your CFC Chair.

George M.

Accessibilities Committee Report verbal and written

The committee met on September 22nd with four districts represented, and on October 27th with three districts represented and one visitor.

A resident at the Concord Place Retirement Community in Northlake had requested a meeting be established at that facility. The administration is willing to cooperate in providing facilities for a meeting but does not want to allow any participants from outside the facility. The resident who requested the meeting has been contacted with the suggestion that he accept the offer of a meeting place, put up signs and try to establish a meeting. We are following up with the resident and DCM.

Our October visitor was a member who has hearing loss. We were able to familiarize him with Zoom closed captioning and had a conversation about talk to text Apps. We have been getting requests for assistance from people who are hard of hearing. There are talk-to-text smart phone apps which may require others in the group to link or download the app. This technology is evolving rapidly

Zoom has closed captioning available at no cost to the user. It requires activation by the owner of the account then is available to each user to turn on and adjust through an icon on the toolbar. There are people who have no hearing loss but use the captions because of the variable sound quality on Zoom.

The committee would like to see closed captioning activated at all online and hybrid meetings. We have activation instructions for Zoom on the Chicago AA website at committees/accessibilities committee. We also have a checklist of questions on the accessibility of a meeting location. Please use it to see if your meeting place is accessible, could easily be made so and listed accurately in the Meeting Guide. The committee will be glad to help with any questions. Something as simple as a threshold ramp may be a bridge to sobriety.

We were asked to participate in the planning of the 2023 State Conference. The chair will be attending the planning meetings starting November 9. The Alternate Chair lives near the convention site and has also been invited to attend.

The committee is not scheduling meetings in November and December.

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023, online, 7:00 – 8:00 central time Zoom id: 970 4601 9151, passcode: 283316.

Off-Hours Phone & Chat Committee Report given by Margie - verbal and written

The volunteers on the phone & chat committee have been busy making sure the hand of AA is always there when someone reaches out for help. Here are our ongoing stats:

As of the end of October 2022, our volunteers have:

- Answered 916 calls to the CASO offices when they are closed.
- Helped 157 people seeking help for themselves.
 - Connected 74 of those new callers to a 12th Step Worker.
- Gave 293 callers information on meetings around the city.

- Responded to 1,109 chats which included connecting 81 new members to a meeting or a 12th Step Worker.

Upcoming Events & Trainings:

- Our December Training is already set for Saturday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Please share our training flyer far and wide!
- We will come to you! Do you have a home group that would like to host a phone training. Let us know! We will travel and train wherever and whenever you want.
- We always welcome new members to our Phone Volunteer Committee! We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact us at Phones24@Chicagoaa.org for the monthly agenda and Zoom link.

Stories from our Volunteers: I was making a graveside amends to my grandparents one afternoon while on-call for the answering service. I received a call from a woman who was struggling and she wanted to know how I managed to get sober in my 20s. I told her about the pain and loneliness I felt while drinking. I told her about the hurt that I had caused others. I spoke to her about the gift of desperation that I used as my higher power when I first got to the rooms and how much my vision of a higher power has changed while working the steps with a sponsor, attending meetings, and being of service to others in this program. I let her know that I was able to really live life today on life's terms and feel a sense of purpose and belonging that I never dreamt was possible. I spoke of the meaningful bonds I've made with people in the rooms, rebuilding relationships with friends and family, and being able to be a contributing member of society. That my life felt full beyond my wildest dreams or expectations and it is only AA and my higher power that I can attribute that gift to. I had expected to show up to that graveside amends and read a letter that I wrote to my grandparents, one of whom died from alcoholism. But that phone call allowed me to express so much more and I felt in that moment that my grandparents heard every word of what I shared. I can only imagine the joy they must've felt knowing I had found an answer to my alcoholism, one that my grandfather was never able to find, and be truly free - one day at a time - from this harrowing and deadly disease. I'll never forget that afternoon and the impact it continues to have on my sobriety.

-Natalie C.

Structure Committee Report given Brian T. verbal

- The committee hasn't met as of recent, but they will be meeting in December to elect a new Chairperson - meeting date TBD, will be listed on the CASO calendar

Here's How Committee Report - written only

Our last issue of this year will be coming out in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for it. We really hope you enjoy reading it!

Here's How accepts submissions in the form of short stories, essays, poems, pictures, or anything else related to recovery in AA. The pieces we publish are usually between 15 -1500 words in length. We do reserve the right to edit if necessary. Please format your submissions as Word docs. This makes it easier for us to edit them. Email them to hereshow@chicagoaa.org or mail them directly to CASO, 180 N. Wabash, Chicago, IL, 60601. Suite #305. Your article may help someone stay sober another 24hrs, so please send it our way!

If you are interested in subscribing to Here's How, the cost is \$6.00 per year. You can subscribe online using CASO's website or simply by filling out the form on the back of the newsletter and mailing it back to us. If you would like to receive our newsletter in digital format, make sure to provide your email address.

Our newsletter has AA's message of recovery at its core. We continue carrying this message with your help.

Here's How meets every third Monday of the month at 6pm. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, November 21. If you are interested in attending, you can access the zoom link directly from CASO's website (Calendar of Events) or send us an email and we will be happy to provide the access information. Thank you!

Byron C. - Editor

Archives Committee - Verbal given by Liam

- Manuscript has returned to Chicago Archives by GSO via Carol, project lead and has been given direction on updating some of the verbiage. The manuscript is about 125 pages - no timeline as of now.
- Archives Committee was unable to present at ACO due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Member National Archive workshop in Little Rock, Arkansas and came back with many ideas.
- Monthly working session - meeting at CASO - project inventorying contents of the repository - making it available to the membership - potentially having it up on the website in the near future
- Open house in March - discussion on planning and format
- If anyone is interested in joining the committee, reach out to Liam or any other member - exciting projects upcoming
- The committee reading and reviewing the archives workbook

Literature Committee Report verbal and written given by Sista Vet

- In Mid-September, Nominations were made, and votes were taken where a New Chair and Alternate Chair were chosen: Sista Vet, Yvette W. (Chair), Soncerea M. (Alternate Chair).
- In Late September, the Literature Committee supported a Writing your Story Workshop, conducted by Vera F. NTD AAWS, in Collaboration with Evans Avenue New Dawn Group, which was held September 30, 2022.
- The Literature Committee has Three books in review: In God's Care, Writing the Big Book, and Twenty-four Hours a day for teens. All reviews for In God's care and Twenty-four hours a day for teens have been submitted and is scheduled for approval or disapproval in January.
- A Digital Newsletter is in progress. Suggestions about color and layout was greatly appreciated, therefore, the Technology Committee was consulted and their enthusiasm to be of service with the Newsletter was refreshing.
- Literature Committee members are assisting with the Illinois State Conference Planning Committee.
- The combined Grapevine and Literature Committee Open House is scheduled for December 10, 2022, at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The information is listed on the Calendar at Chicagoaa.org.
- Discussions on how to encourage groups to hand out Newcomer Packets and Literature is a consistent priority.
- Continue to review Area 19 Literature Guidelines.

- Submitted a Proposal for a hundred dollar increase to the budget, which would increase it to two hundred dollars.

The next Literature Committee meeting will be held January 4, 2023, online I.D. 952 4210 5436 and pc. 958275. Please pass on the information to your Districts and Groups that we are looking for Literature Delegates and Literature Group Representatives to join us in carrying the Message.

Sincerely, Your Literature Committee – Literature@chicagoaa.org

A.A. Grapevine Committee Report verbal and written given by Amy

Local Area Grapevine Committee News

- The Grapevine Committee met November 8, 2022.
We welcomed Theo P. from District 9/17 and Sista Vet, Literature Committee Chair, to the group; discussed our plans/agenda timeline for the CASO December Second Saturday open house (which we are co-chairing with the Literature Committee)
- Alternate Chair, Monique P., verified information previously discussed on a conference call with members of the Literature Committee re December's Second Saturday event; recorded planning details re same; verified our special guest for our December Committee meeting...more details to come!

Current Magazine Issues

- This month's Grapevine featured section is: "*Fun in Sobriety*" featuring some of the best stories from our newest Grapevine book, *Fun in Sobriety*. There's also a special section featuring gratitude stories over the years from stories
- Submit your stories for upcoming issues - *Our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book (70 Wonderful Years!)* - Our "Twelve & Twelve" book turns 70 this year! Tell us the ways this book changed your life and enriched your sobriety. What are your favorite passages and why? Share some stories (due Dec 15)
Upcoming topics: *Mid-Sobriety Challenges; AA in the Military, Remote Communities*
We are always looking for stories of experience with each Step and each Tradition! (Pick a Step or pick a Tradition and write about your experience!)
- This month's LaViña featured section is "*LV Short Stories*"
- Submit your Spanish-language stories: *Prayer and Meditation; Annual Newcomer Issue; Relapse*

We are always looking for stories on individual steps and traditions

What's News.

- FREE SHIPPING! November 1 to December 31, 2022 on all Grapevine and LaViña products available at store.aagrapevine.org
- The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour turns one-year-old. To celebrate, a special anniversary episode has been released. Tune in to hear Don and Sam talk with the gang at Grapevine about the creation of the podcast, and listen to some hilarious bloopers that didn't make it onto the weekly podcast
- Now Available - A new LaViña book "Sobriedad Emocional" featuring powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous describing the positive transformations sobriety can bring as they practice the principles of AA in all aspects of their lives
- 2022 Carry the Message Project helps share the gift of Grapevine and LaViña with those in need. Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in! Learn more at www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message or visit the Grapevine YouTube channel

Connect and Contribute

- Consider supporting Here's How (Chicago's monthly AA newsletter), in addition to Grapevine and LaViña. More information on subscribing and/or submitting content available at chicagoaa.org/heres-how/

- Find us on these channels: Instagram @alcoholicsanonymous_gv, @alcoholicosanonimos_lv; YouTube Channel youtube.com/aagrapevine; Listen to our Podcast aagrapevine.org/podcast or on your favorite podcast platform
- Sign up for emails from Grapevine and LaViña: Grapevine Daily quote, monthly newsletter, Grapevine and Your Group (quarterly); LaViña weekly quote, LaViña news www.aagrapevine.org/emails
- Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs and illustrations. Visit www.aagrapevine.org/share to learn more about how you can share with Grapevine.
- Record your story. Grapevine is collecting members' stories in their own voices. Please visit: www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal for additional information.
- **Please relay this report to your group.** Recommend your group purchase a GV/LV subscription to add to your group's literature library. Visit www.aagrapevine.org for more information on these and other topics.
- The next meeting of the Grapevine committee is December 13, 2022 at 6:30pm

In Service,
Amy W., Area 19 Grapevine Committee Chair
grapevine@chicagoaa.org

The Committee On Conferences verbal and written given by Bob

The Committee on Conferences meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. **Next meeting is Wednesday December 14th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm.** All meetings can be attended remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing. Please contact COC at email below for Zoom Meeting info if you are interested in attending.

2022 ACO Planning Committee -Wrap Up

- The 2022 All Chicago Open (ACO) meeting was held Sept 24th, at Chicago Statue University.
- The ACO Planning Committee held it's wrap up session October 27th.
 - Leon H, Committee Chair thanked all of the members of the committee for their hard work and successful achievement.
 - Following the pandemic, there was uncertainty as to whether event would even be held in person, and committee did an amazing job given all they were facing.
 - The group shared many experiences and lessons learned from the event, and catalogued those items for future ACO planning committee reference purposes
- High-level updates from the event:
 - The 7th Tradition collections totaled \$7,396, with expenses of \$10,217. The Attendance estimate is 1,000 (with a large number of volunteers) and the bookstore had a loss of \$285.

Illinois State – 2023 Planning Committee- Tommy B Chair

- 2023 Illinois State Conference Planning is in full swing.
- While many of the sub-committees have chairs, they are still seeking committee co-chairs and committee members.
- It meets 2nd Wednesday every month, immediately after COC meeting (7:30pm) Check the Calendar for updates at <https://www.chicagoaa.org/events/>
- Please see attached flyer for planning committee.
- Also- please see attached "save the date" flyer.

2023 ACO Planning Committee- Kick Off meeting

- The 2023 All Chicago Open (ACO) planning committee is going to start up in January

- The meeting will kick-off the 2023 efforts- main goal is to find a Chair for the committee and fill other key positions
- Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the Month, starting in January:
 - January 19th @ 6:30- it will use COC Zoom initially (information below)
 - Please see the attached FlyerACO Venue Selection
- Following the conclusion of the 2022 ACO- the COC has begun collection of information re: future ACO venues.
- The next meeting for this effort will be Monday, December 5th @ 7:30pm, all are welcome to attend, and will meet on COC's zoom.
- **Area 19 Workshop Resource Library ([link](#))** - If you are hosting or are interested in hosting an upcoming workshop, check out our growing library of materials for hosting workshops. If you have materials you would like to share with the Area, please contact coc@chicagoaa.org. **Respectfully submitted, Bob V. Committee on Conferences Chair**

Technology Committee - No Report

Area 19 Public Information Committee (PIC) Report-written only

Public Information Committee (PIC): <https://www.chicagoaa.org/committees/committee-picpc/>

The purpose of this standing committee is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers through the use of the media and public speakers. This committee serves as the central source of information that is made available to the public in the Chicago area regarding Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee ensures that any information the public receives is correct and is given within the guidelines of the Twelve Traditions of A.A.

Ongoing activities:

- We still are not finding much in the resumption of in person DUI classes. Since most of these classes are held at "for profit" treatment centers, we are finding that many of them have shut down.
- We are seeing a gratifying increase with in-person opportunities to carry the message.
- Our committee's effort to increase Search Engine Optimization is been almost exclusively been handed off to the Technology Committee.

NEW activities since C.A.S.A. last met:

- Participated in the "Fall Festival" Community Health & Resource Fair, October 6, 2022 @La Casa Norte, 3533 W. North Ave, Chicago. This is sponsored by Aetna Insurance
- Also sponsored by Aetna Insurance, we participated in the "Giving Thanks for your Health" event on November 4, 2022 @ St Mary of Celle Church.
- Per Katie's invitation, PI/CPC held an open house on November 12, 2022 at our downtown office.

Planned activities

- Attending the 47th Ward Health and Wellness Fair on **Saturday, November 19 from 10AM-2PM** at the Sulzer Library at 4455 N Lincoln Ave Lincoln Square.
- Research ways to increase chicagoaa.org search engine optimization.
- Restart DUI classes with existing providers and expand, as we can (given the COVID situation).

Upcoming Meetings of the joint PI/CPC Committee will be:

- Monday 12/12/2022 – 6 PM at CASO or Zoom meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96433898811?pwd=U3ZKUnhWNFZTMnJFdEt4WEdhS3RMdz09>
- Monday 1/9/2023 – 6 PM at CASO or Zoom meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96433898811?pwd=U3ZKUnhWNFZTMnJFdEt4WEdhS3RMdz09>

Respectively Submitted,

Howie W. - Area 19 PIC Chair
pic@chicagoaa.org

Area 19 Cooperation with the Professional Committee (CPC) Written Report only

- Hosted an information table at the ACO
- Shared pamphlets and information on October 20th at the Village of Orland Park Active Aging Event
 - Volunteer from District 22 has been very active in contacting high schools within the district
 - On October 24, volunteers shared their stories at Stagg High School in Palos Hills as part of a human library; response was tremendously positive from the school, students and the volunteers
 - Andrew High School in Tinley Park is looking to schedule a human library for March 2023
- Provided speaker for classes at Oak Lawn Evergreen Park High School on October 26

Upcoming Meetings of the PI and CPC Committees will be Monday December 12, 2022 and Monday January 9, 2023

- Meeting ID: 964 3389 8811
- Passcode: 230070

In love and service,

Marni C - Area 19 CPC Chair

Open - Area 19 CPC Alternate Chair

CPC@chicagoaa.org

Hospital & Treatment Facilities Written Report only -Laura B. reads

At the last HTF meeting, The Committee brainstormed ideas of how to grow and effectively reach those institutions who may not know of AA and the facilities that once had AA meetings but paused due to Co-Vid. A healthy discussion of how to approach a new facility was held. We have an ever-growing database of AA members willing to serve and waiting for the opportunity to serve.

At the December meeting, nominations for the vacant positions of the Committee- positions of Chair, Alternate Chair, and Secretary-will be accepted and approved.

The next Committee meeting is Monday December 5 , 2022 at 7pm. All are invited to attend.

Zoom ID 473 349 029. Zoom information is available at Events for [Hospital](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/) [HYPERLINK](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/)
["https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/"](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/) [HYPERLINK](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/)
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["https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/"](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/) [Treatment](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/)
[Facilities Committee \(chicagoaa.org\)](https://www.chicagoaa.org/event/hospital-treatment-facilities-committee-3/2021-12-06/)

Please, continue to spread the word that we always welcome HTF and BTG volunteers. Bridging the Gap volunteers are temporary contacts for people about to be released from hospitals and treatment centers who want to stay sober by immediately finding meetings to attend. The volunteers are the “bridge” from the hospital/treatment center to AA. Volunteers can also sign up on <https://www.chicagoaa.org/committees/bridging-the-gap/>

The Hospital and Treatment Facilities Committee

Old Business:

Motion from the Finance Committee to vote on the proposed 2023/2024 term budget as presented to the groups in September 2022 M/S/P

- Voting – motion carries - at venue and on zoom
Yes 68
No 2
Abstain 1

• New Business

- 1) Motion from the Structure Committee that the Anti-Harassment policy be sent out to the Groups for approval as CASA policy, with inclusion in *Chicago AA: How It Works For You*, and to be voted on at the January CASA

M/S/P

Voting - motion carries - at venue and on zoom

Yes 71

No 0

Abstain 0

- 2) Motion from the Structure Committee to send out to the groups for approval and to be voted at the January CASA, with inclusion in *Chicago AA: How It Works for You*, the purpose of the Technology Committee as follows:

This special committee responds to inquires at chicagoaa.org, reports on website activity, and works closely with office staff and the technology management vendor on changes to the website and all the associated technologies needed to maintain it. However, the office staff is ultimately responsible for executing agreed-upon changes.

The committee also investigates emerging technologies and recommends technological goals to help CASO and Area committees stay up to date in communicating with and serving AA members. In all its decisions and actions, the committee strives to protect members' anonymity at a digital level. Upon request, the committee shares collected experience with website or technology committees in other AA service areas. Membership on this committee is open to any interested AA member.

M/S/P
Voting - motion carries - at venue and on zoom
Yes 71
No 0
Abstain 0

Announcements

ISCYPAA guest, Tatiana - Feb 17-19, 2023, Chicago is hosting ISCYPAA XL - The Fellowship You Crave - flyer shared

31st Annual We Are Not Saints Convention guest Molly M. - Jan 13-15th 2023 at the Holiday Inn Skokie - Registration information on shared flyer and service opportunities available.

Closing Details

- 7th Tradition collected today \$247 - The group has decided to return the money to CASO
- Registration & Voting Eligibility - GSRs must be registered 30 days prior to vote at CASA. Register online at www.chicagoaa.org/forms
- Our **Area Service Committees** are in **need of volunteers**, please inform your Group Meetings; check the Area Calendar www.chicagoaa.org/calendar for information.
- Please join us for the All Chicago Open (ACO) on Saturday, September 24th, doors open at 6:00pm, meeting starts at 8:00pm – service positions are available.
- Scheduling of next Assembly and Adjournment

Next CASA Saturday January 21st, 2023, hosted by District 9 & 17, Suburban Fellowship Center, 7438 Harrison St. Forest Park, IL 60130 **Sharing at 10:00, Lunch 11:30-12** Assembly 12pm

On Zoom: Meeting ID: 987 5972 6527 Passcode: 712021

- **Motion to adjourn**, seconded and passed. Moment of Quiet followed by the Responsibility Statement at 3:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Dawn A., Area 19 Recording Secretary

As stated in *Chicago AA: How It Works for You*: “Regular meetings of the assembly shall be held during every odd month on Saturday or Sunday whenever possible. The hosting district shall be selected using a matrix. The CASA chair will be responsible for notifying the hosting district at least nine months prior to the hosting. If the district is unable or unavailable, CASA will then go to the next district in the matrix. The order of districts in the matrix is: 15, 12, 25, 10, 5 & 20, 8, 2, 11, 22, 13, 6 & 21, 24, 3, 1, 14, 18 & 19, 16, 7, 9 & 17, 4.”