

Minutes for Sunday, December 3, 2023

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Embassy Suites,

Oklahoma City Downtown/Medical Center

741 North Phillips Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Registration: District 50

Present: Total Attendance per Registration: 141 (which included 34 DCMs)

Call to order by Area Chair, Diane W.

Opening: Serenity Prayer

Welcoming

Roll call by Secretary, Novie H.

Preview of Day's Events by Area Chair, Diane W.

- Go through reports.
- Old Business – The Policy and Procedures change motion that was tabled from the September meeting will be voted on today by DCMs.
- District Chair/DCM reports changed today.
- New Business – 1 agenda item submitted by Budget and Finance Committee and 1 agenda item submitted by a DCM.
- DCMs will appoint 2025 OK State Conference Chair
- Service Committee Breakout sessions

Area Officer Reports:

Area Chair Report– Diane W.

- Attended District 60 picnic
- Attended the Southwest Regional Forum. Encourage everyone to the next one in 2025 in New Mexico.
 - Asked about the GSR and DCM kits and why they were still on backorder.
 - The GSO manager said he would provide the numbers and what they are doing to resolve the issue.
 - Reported that printing has been a real issue so they reorganized their publishing department.
 - Must be in the system (Fellowship Connection) to get a kit so get with Novie to ensure that you are in the system.
 - Because our Area is structured differently, GSO had to do a work around to acknowledge all 6 DCMS in each district. Other areas have only one DCM per district.

- Attended the Al-Anon Conference at Sequoyah Park. Jimmy D. and Ryan F. did a great job on the workshop and the ice cream social was a blast.
- Attended the District 60 Workshop
- Attended the District 50 Conference in Enid.
 - Always learn something new at traditions workshops from past delegates.
- Attended the National Corrections Conference in OKC the following week.
 - Learned what the GSO Corrections Committee is doing.
 - Was not aware of what all went into GSO getting AA literature on iPads into correctional facilities.
- Following weekend, attended District 30 meeting
- Held a Zoom District chair meeting
 - Working on ways to improve communication with the districts.
 - When an action item is submitted for the next area meeting, Novie will have Novie send out to the fellowship so that groups, DCMs, districts can discuss before the next meeting.
 - Will still send out the same info plus the treasurer's report a week before in my reminder email.
 - If you are not getting the area emails, please subscribe. If you have subscribed, and are not getting them, check your spam and mark it as "not spam".
- Attended the monthly Joint Service Meetings in both Tulsa and OKC and other district meetings.

Alternate Chair Report – Gary K.

- Since last Area Meeting, there was one State Sponsored Workshop
 - October 14, 2023 – Our Three Legacies – Hosted by District 60
- Upcoming scheduled workshops
 - December 9, 2023 –
- Two workshops have been scheduled
 - October 14, 2023, in District 60 – Three Legacies Panel
 - December 9, 2023, in District 40 (Hybrid event-In person and on Zoom) – Problems other than Alcohol cooperating with other 12 Step Fellowships (Cooperation, without Affiliation)
 - Representatives from each of the following fellowships will be providing information, Al-Anon Family, Gamblers Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Heroin Anonymous.
 - Depending on the success of the event, I would like to hold the event in December 2024 in OKC.
 - February 3, 2023 – in District 70, State Sponsored Workshop
 - Topics to be determined
- Activities for the past Quarter include
 - District 50 conference
 - Spoke at the Fellowship You Crave, the Outlaw Safecracker Group and the Owasso Group.

- Expenses this last quarter were \$634.73. Have receipts and bank statements available for review.

Delegate Report – Ryan F.

- Opening for Class A Trustee (Non-Alcoholic) at the General Service Board.
 - Non-Alcoholic
 - Six-year commitment
 - Deadline on December 14, 2023
- Preliminary Agenda items for the 74th General Service conference have been released.
 - Posted on the aa.org website under the delegate tab under the password-protected documents. The password is “sober”.
 - 117 items were submitted but only 3 were forwarded onto the conference.
 - Out of the 117 agenda items submitted, 71% were about three things: 1) the plain language book, 2) the Preamble and 3) the 12 and 12.
 - None of those got submitted to the committee so they will not be looked at.
- A new Questionnaire regarding the Founder’s Writing is available (50 copies). Also available on the delegate website.
 - The idea is to have a home group discussion and then we will set aside time at the next area meeting (mock conference) so Area 57 can have discussion.
- The Trustee Committee for the conference has reviewed the 2024 Budget and agreed to incorporate a cost savings of \$112,000 as suggested in the progress report from the Conference Improvement Committee.
- Delegates will be allowed viewing of the Plain Language Book during the conference week.
 - Allowed 1 ½ hours to read the second half of the book as opposed to the hour that was allowed to read the first half.
 - The book is finished and ready to be presented for approval at the 74th General Conference.
 - Total spent on the book project is \$131,000.
 - At the Southwest Regional Forum, there was some discussion about the steps being translated.
 - The GSO Service Manager let me look at that portion of the current draft of the book.
 - Instead of a translated step, there is a small paragraph explaining the step.
 - It will be talked about and voted on at the conference.
- The Grapevine App
 - Total of 2,327 downloads of app
 - Net income is \$43,484
 - Currently sits at number 32 on Apple’s top 200 newspaper and magazine app charts
- Contributions and Literature sales are down.

- o Since numbers were below those presented at the 73rd General Service conference, they will be re-forecasting, which means they will look at what happened in the first part of the year and give better numbers.
- o Re-forecasted Expenses are \$17.8 million versus \$17 million included in the final budget. This variance is due to:
 - greater than expected Conference expenses
 - higher than expected lodging, food, and A/V costs at Board weekends
 - engagement of temporary help to resolve licensing backlog
 - higher than expected usage of outsourced accounting assistance
 - more conference documents requiring translation than anticipated
 - higher than anticipated legal fees (contract reviews, personnel, Board and Bylaws)
 - increased expenses were offset by the deferral of certain technology projects
- o Reserve Fund report: As of September 30, 2023, the Reserve Fund Assets total \$12 million consisting of cash and certificates of deposit. This is equal to 7.27 months of operating expenses. The goal range is 9-12 months.
 - Drawdown from the Reserve Fund is coming with no plan to replenish.
- o A new subcommittee was created to focus on ways to cut expenses and bring the new proposed budget to a balanced budget rather than one showing a deficit.
- Spoke at the Live and Let Live retreat.
- Attended Southwest Regional Forum.
- Gave a workshop with Jimmy Dean at the Oklahoma Al-anon Conference.
- Gave delegate report at the district 50 Conference
- Met with the Report and Charter Committee
 - o Discussed the upcoming agenda items.
 - o Discussed the progress report on the service manual rewrites.
- Had an online sharing conference with the board of trustees focused on rebuilding trust.
- Met with Southwest Regional Delegates
- Spent a total of \$2,163.21 this past quarter and the remaining balance is \$503.81.

Alternate Delegate Report – Bryan T.

- Attended the Southwest Regional Forum in El Paso, TX.
 - o Provided opportunity to share with GSO concerns and hear from them how they are helping serve our Fellowship.
- Attended multiple Joint Service meetings in OKC and Tulsa.
- Hosted Ryan F. at the District 50 Conference in Enid.
- Attended the National Corrections Conference
 - o Saw the impact that Area 57 has on the members of AA that are behind bars.
 - o Congratulations to all those that took part in the conference.
- Attended the North American Alternate Delegate calls.
- Attended the Southwest Regional Trustee sharing session (two hour Zoom session).
- Spent \$782.00 this last quarter with the budget of \$500. Not going to ask for reimbursement for what I spent over the budget.

Treasurer Report – Curt L.

- As a reminder about the 7th Tradition, the Gratitude Baskets are passed around with the QR Code for the Area Venmo Account.
- Reviewed Cash Balance Reconciliation report, charts, and contribution report
 - First quarter beginning (9/1/23) the bank balance was \$8,841.09 (checking) and Prudent Reserve (savings) was \$35,772.18 for a total of \$44,613.27.
 - At the end of quarter (11/30/23) the bank register balance was \$1,762.98 (checking) and Prudent Reserve (savings) was 35,878.48 for the ending total of \$40,212.04 (included \$106.30 interest).
 - The balance of \$1,762.98 was the balance not spent or committed yet which is the lowest bank register balance since 2018.
 - Quarterly expenses were \$15,470.08.
 - Quarterly group contributions were \$8,992.96.
 - Quarterly gratitude contributions were \$1,464.71.
 - 83 Groups contributed during the 1st quarter, which represents 19% of all groups for a total of \$8,992.96.

Area Chair, Diane W.: Performed DCM count (34) and asked for motion from DCMs to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Shelly W., District 10 DCM and seconded by Brett S., District 30 DCM. Open for discussion. Motion approved.

Area Secretary Report – Novie H.

- Acknowledged District 50 for their help at the Registration tables
- Fellowship Connection – DCMs, now is the time to get read only access. The Fellowship Connection gives valuable reports to the DCMs and our delegate.
- New people that are taking service positions, please provide me with your information as there are five different places that the information has to be entered to help you serve others.
- Those waiting on a GSR or DCM service packet, the website has electronic packets that can really help.
- 3 new Registered Groups this Quarter:
 - District 30 – Prosaic Steel Girder Group (Jay, OK)
 - District 90 – Home Group in OKC
 - District 90 – Western Ave. in OKC
- Area Reports – Need your handwritten or email reports so that important information will be recorded.
- Area Office – Will be closed on Saturday, December 9th.
- Outline of Secretarial Duties – One of the first assignments given is now close to completion. Will be sending it through the channels to be reviewed.

Area Chair, Diane W.: Called for motion to approve the September 10, 2023, Area Meeting Minutes. Motion was made and seconded. Motion approved.

2024 State Conference Chair Report – Amy T.

- The Conference Committee has been meeting since June.

- Currently has 210 registrations.
 - Been traveling all over taking registrations.
 - The districts have been generous in their contributions.
- Ala-non has recently appointed a liaison for our conference.

2024 Fun in the Fellowship Report – Reba H.

- Past Committee Chair, Mary Beth H., left great handoffs and a lot for me to review.
- Looking for Committee members
- Considering themes and locations
- Want to meet with the District Chairs and get them involved.

OKC Intergroup – Cooperation Report – Jeff (Intergroup Liaison)

- Will be busy for the next few months
- December 7 – Intergroup Invasion
- December 16 – Grand Re-opening at the new physical location at 3833 NW 63rd, OKC
 - From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
 - Food and Fellowship
 - Raffle for a 2nd Edition Big Book
- January 1 – First Things First at the Kelly Club (11:30 am-1:30 pm)
 - AA Meeting at Noon
 - Black Eyed Pea Contest (Eating and Judging at 1:00)
 - Intergroup Raffle (Thunder Club Level Tickets- Food and Parking Included)
 - Sobriety Stories for Newsletter needed.
 - Hotline Volunteers and 12 Step List needed.

Northeast Central Office – Cooperation Report – Amy T.

- Kelsey's last day is tomorrow.
 - Board of Regents reviewed resumes and selected Barbara
- Soberfest was held in October
 - 150 were in attendance
 - Chuck B. was our speaker
 - Costume contest was held
 - Phyllis (NECS) won for the Cat in a Hat
 - Next Saturday is the Holiday Open House
 - 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Snacks, fellowship, and raffle
 - 4833 South Sheridan, Tulsa

Break (10 minutes)

Area Chair, Diane W.: Reconvened meeting

Area Service Committee Break Out Sessions

Area Service Committee Chair Reports

Area Accessibilities Chair Report – Maria E. (not present – no report)

Area Archives Chair Report – Gabe S.

- Area (State) Office Open House/Archives
 - January 13, 2024, 10:00-2:00 pm
 - Chance to see the Area Office and view the Archives
 - Have more fliers, if needed
- Long timer interviews and group histories are a large part of the archives
 - Archives is hoping to be a part of the next Newsletter dedicated to memories of the long timers
- Updating Mission Statement
 - People want to know what the Archive Committee does
- District 40 Archive Workshop
 - Saturday, April 27, 2025
 - More information and flyers are coming
- Area Office Paperwork (Records) Project
 - Determining document types that should be kept
 - Putting together a template for document groups
 - Examples of groups include State Conference files, Delegate files, Committee files, District and Group files, flyers, financial reports
 - Lots of duplication
 - Digitizing
 - Scanning station set up with new scanner
- Continuing to meet monthly and always looking for volunteers

Area Bridge-the-Gap Chair – Julie S.

- To date, have used about \$450.00 – not itemized
- Joined with Corrections in a Tri-City Workshop
- Shout out for the National Corrections contract
- Stressed the importance of the cards that are used to connect Bridge the Gap folks

Area Cooperation with Professional Community Chair – Marina T. (not present – Diane W provided report)

- Attended a CPC Workshop at the Primary Purpose group in Norman
- Provided CPC literature to an AA group in Holdenville
- Gave CPC presentation to the Desire Group in Broken Bow
- Provided CPC information to a church group in Fairfield, OK who does a 12-step program
- After receiving a referral from the New York CPC desk, scheduled a meeting with the Wellness Center in Calera, OK interested in providing space for an AA meeting
- Attending PI/CPC conference 12/2-12/3/2024 virtually
- No money spent from CPC budget this quarter

Area Corrections Chair Report – Tony P.

- National Corrections Conference
 - Netted \$6,207.41 after all bills were paid
 - Will pay back \$3,000 seed money to the National Advisory Board
 - Committee decided to give \$2,207 to Coins for Corrections
 - Committee also decided to give \$1000 to OKC Intergroup
 - Conference account balance is \$3,440.84
 - Registrations – 256
 - Banquet attendance – 136
 - Lunch attendance – 124
 - Ice Cream Socials – 112
 - Scholarships – 36
 - Zoom registrations – 66
 - Badges – 6 people started the process for getting badge and more took information to pray over carrying the message behind the walls
- Preparing language change for Policy and Procedures concerning duties of Correction Committee Chairs in each District
- Coins for Corrections
 - Structuring a Coins for Corrections Committee that will have a representative from each District
 - Coins for Corrections has balance of \$724.06
- New Corrections Chairs
 - District 40 – Peter T. 405-464-4647, email: pjt2528@gmail.com
 - District 70 – Dan P. 405-974-9953
 - District 50 – Jimmy F. 580-747-2964
- Jess Dunn Correctional Center (Taft, OK) needs AA volunteers
- Area Grapevine Chair – Scott Brown
 - Grapevine/LaVina rolled out Sept. 1, 2023
 - \$2.99 monthly or \$29.99 per year
 - Download app for free from
 - Apple Store – iPhones
 - Google Play – Android phones
 - Subscription provides the following and more:
 - The new magazine each month
 - Explore the Grapevine or LaVina Archive
 - Send stories to friends
 - Listen to audio of each magazine article
 - Listen to podcasts
 - Enter persona sobriety date for a daily calculation
 - Build spiritual maintenance daily checklist
 - Attended the North America/Canada Area Grapevine Chairs Meet and Greet Zoom Meeting, September 2023
 - Discussion
 - Beta Testing information

- Backlog for current new subscribers/subscriptions, digital copy and/or printed version
- Attended Fun in the Fellowship, Sept. 9th, 2023 @the Cole Community Center
 - Had display, breakout session and gave away subscriptions
- National Corrections Conference, November 10th-12th
 - Set up a New Display Table
 - Grapevine/LaVina staff will be attending

Area Gratitude Chair – Joann D.

- Thank you to Mary Beth for her submission in the Newsletter
- Thank you to Shawna C. District 10, Correction Chair, for her Gratitude submission to the Newsletter

Area Newsletter Chair - Mary Beth H.

- Next Newsletter will be the State Conference Edition and will be dedicated to the Long Timers
 - Submission deadline is March 3, 2024.
- Copies made 120

Area Policy and Procedures (P&P) Chair – Steve S. (Sharon S. not present)

- Attended two meetings explaining what Policy and Procedure was and was not
 - Most questions asked should be sent to Ryan and Diane
 - The job of the chair is to:
 - update policy and procedures with changes
 - review any proposed agenda items
 - be of service by reviewing and reading of any proposals to sure they are in line with the Traditions

Area Public Information Chair – April W.

- Folders are available for District Chairs, and they include PI pamphlets, wallet cards, press releases (aa.org), Alcoholics Anonymous information, and our PI Workbook.
- Spent \$282.48 on PI literature from aa.org
 - Literature cannot come in yet but wallet cards are here. Will share literature with chairs and those who need it.
- Monthly Working group for CPS and PI
 - Held on second Saturday at 11am, Zoom ID: 878 0311 3474, Passcode: 411
- Spent \$118.86 for 2500 wallet cards

Area Technologies Chair – Josh L.

- Upcoming State-sponsored Workshop:
 - Event: “Problems Other Than Alcohol” workshop
 - Location: “Where Good Things Happen”, 5561 S. Lewis, Ave. Tulsa, OK
 - Hybrid event aimed at addressing issues beyond alcoholism
- Website Traffic Increase:

- o Achieved a significant milestone by doubling the traffic to our website, aaoklahoma.org
 - The increase is a positive indicator of growing interest and engagement with our community
- Secured eligibility for TechSoup.org program
 - o Unlocks \$10,000 monthly in Google Ads credits amplifying our online outreach
 - Will greatly enhance our ability to reach and support more individuals through our digital presence

Area Treatment Chair – Josh A.

- Worked with a director at Valley Hope to gather information from all AA groups taking meetings into their facility.
- Treatment Committee Meeting
 - o Held on November 12, 2023
 - o Mike B. gave information about the Joint workshop held between Treatment and Bridge the Gap. Topic was “How to Carry the AA Message into Facilities”. Panel participants were Norman L., Anna M., and Julie S.
 - o Angela B. shared that she is working with a committee in District 20 who are working with their Accessibility Chair on taking meetings into nursing homes. They will be meeting monthly as a committee. She is also trying to get back into Jordan’s Crossing (Female Facility)
- If District Chairs have information about new District Treatment Chairs coming in at the end of the month, please give me the information today so I can contact them.
- Workshops
 - o Want to work with Districts 30, 40, 60, 70 and 80 to create workshops

Budget and Finance Chair – Curt L.

- Budget and Finance Committee met on December 2, 2023
 - o Interbank and Arvest accounts are reconciled through November 2023 and documentation has been uploaded to the Budget & Finance Committee SharePoint site
 - o Reviewed Q1 financials

Break for Lunch

Area Committee Meeting Reconvened

District/DCM Reports

Please note: The District Chairs and DCMs reports are not included within the main body of these minutes, however, all written reports are kept on file as a part of the Area Meeting Minutes.

Unfinished (Old) Business

(All Motions with Content are attached)

- DCMs voted on Proposed Area 57 Policy and Procedure Change
 - o Results were 11 for and 23 opposed. Motion did not pass.

New Business

(All Motions with Content are attached)

- Recommendation by Business and Finance Committee to change Policy and Procedures.
 - Motion made and seconded. DCMs will vote on Motion in March.
- Motion made and seconded for Area meetings to be held on Saturday or Sunday except in September due to Fun in the Fellowship. No Policy and Procedures change required.
 - Motion remains open. DCMs will vote on Motion in March.

Open Mic/Announcements

Area Chair – Diane W. adjourned meeting

Closing: The Lord's Prayer