NEBRASKANEWS

Volume 34 April 2025 Edition 2 Hotline: 877-AA OF NEB (877-226-3632)

https://area41.org/

Area 41 Business Meeting

April 5th-6th, 2025 | Grand Island, NE

Grand Island Quality Inn and Conference

7838 S. Hwy 281, Building A, Grand Island, NE, 68803 308-384-7770

(To get the Area 41 reduced rate, reserve your room four weeks before the meeting.)

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Area, Regional, & International Dates:

Every 3rd Wed. 2025		Area41 events calendar for details	
June 6-8	2025	Grand Island, NE	
Jul. 3-6	2025	Vancouver, BC, CA	
July 12-13	2025	Grand Island, NE	
Sept. 19-21	2025	Omaha, NE	
Oct. 11-12	2025	Grand Island, NE	
	June 6-8 Jul. 3-6 July 12-13 Sept. 19-21	June 6-8 2025 Jul. 3-6 2025 July 12-13 2025 Sept. 19-21 2025	

^{**}Note from the Report and Charter Committee: Any member that would like to receive a digital copy of this Newsletter can do so by emailing secretary@Area41.org. We still encourage all GSRs to attend their District meeting.**

This report is a confidential A.A. document, for AA members only; it contains members' full names and addresses.

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HOW TO JOIN ONLINE

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 2043 9892

Passcode: Rule62 Dial-in: +1 312 626 6799 Dial-in Passcode: 929644

Please do not post Zoom Meeting details on any social media.



The following guidance also appears--and may be expanded upon--at area41.org/hybrid or with the pictured QR code. Contact the Technology and Communications Committee for further assistance, or to be a hybrid volunteer (remote or in person): area41.org/tech

Starting in April 2025, Area 41 Assemblies and Business Meetings will be hybrid (in person and online). The Zoom meeting will be opened 15 minutes before the first scheduled activity.

There is no cost to join an existing Zoom meeting, and you aren't required to create an account. However, you may prefer to create an account or install the Zoom app on your device.

What you need:

- A device with a camera and microphone is preferrable, such as a smartphone, tablet or computer. You could also dial in by phone.
- A stable internet connection or Wi-Fi; or unlimited data plan if connecting with mobile device over cellular data.
- Meeting ID and Passcode.

Common Actions:

Display Name:

- If you wish, please set your Display Name to communicate the following (or message a Zoom Host for help):
 - Name, Position or Home Group, District.
- To change your name during a meeting (desktop or mobile): Access the participants list, select your name, and choose the rename option.
- During Business Meetings (voting), participants will be named by the Zoom hosts and you will not be able to rename yourself.

· Speaking Order:

- o To get in line to speak, raise your virtual hand:
 - On desktop or mobile: Select React to open Reactions panel, then select Raise hand (or Lower hand).
 - On telephone: *9 Raise/lower hand.
- The hosts will be notified that you've raised your hand and a volunteer will track the speaking order of both in person and online members. You will be prompted to unmute yourself at the appropriate time.

• Mute/Unmute:

- On desktop or mobile: Click/tap the microphone icon in the bottom-left corner.
- On telephone: *6 Toggle mute/unmute.
- Depending on meeting security settings, Zoom host may need to ask you to unmute first.

• Simultaneous Meetings:

During Committee Meetings and GSR Workshop/Area
 Committee, breakout rooms will be utilized. Each in person
 breakout will need a device connected to the Zoom meeting.

· On mobile device:

- You may need to tap the screen once for menus to appear.
- To see "gallery view" (multiple videos instead of single, speaker video), swipe left on your Zoom app screen. Swipe right to return to "speaker view."

Some common ways to join a Zoom meeting are:

• On the Zoom desktop app (computer):

- Before joining a Zoom meeting, visit <u>zoom.us/download</u> in your web browser and install Zoom.
- o Open the Zoom desktop app.
- o Join a meeting using one of these methods:
 - If you want to join a meeting without signing in, click Join a Meeting.
 - If you want to join a meeting by signing in first:
 - 1. Sign in to the desktop app.
 - 2. Click the Home tab.
 - 3. Click Join.
- o Enter the meeting ID and your display name.
 - If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
 - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
- Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video.
- Click Join.

• On the Zoom mobile app (phone or tablet):

- Before joining a Zoom meeting, visit zoom.us/go in your mobile device web browser (or search your app store) and install Zoom.
- o Open the Zoom mobile app.
- o Join a meeting using one of these methods:
 - If you want to join a meeting without signing in, tap Join meeting.
 - If you want to join a meeting by signing in first:
 - 1. Sign in to the mobile app.
 - Tap Join.
- o Enter the meeting ID and your display name.
 - If you're signed in, change your name if you don't want your default name to appear.
 - If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
- Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and tap Join Meeting.

• By telephone:

- o Call the number provided in your invite.
- You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID the nine (9), ten (10), or eleven (11) digit ID provided to you by the host, followed by #.
- You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. This
 only applies if you have joined on the computer or mobile
 device. Press # to skip.
- You may be prompted to enter the meeting passcode, followed by #. The host will include this passcode in the meeting invite.
- If you join by computer or mobile device later, you can enter the Participant ID to bind your phone and device session together and show your video when you speak on the phone.
 To enter your participant ID once you are in the meeting, enter #Participant ID# on your phone.
- o Phone controls for participants:
 - *6 Toggle mute/unmute.
 - *9 Raise/lower hand.

Rev. 01/20/25

Saturday, April 5, 2025
* Please check with your DCM, area41.org, or email chairperson@area41.org for updated information, as agenda information could be subject to change.

8:00 AM- 8:45 AM	First Timers Orientation Important for all 1st Time Atta		
9:00 AM- 10:00 AM	AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
Committee Chairperson DCM		DCM	
Agenda/Workshop	Cara G/ Cat O.	26/23/28	
Archives/Archivist	Char S./ Colleen P.	5/4/11	
Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information	Jeff W.	2/31/32	
Corrections	Marsha S.	1/12/20	
Finance	Brian R.	25/9/30	
Grapevine	Chuck S.	16/22/8	
Literature	Mark S.	24/7/6	
Report & Charter/Newsletter/Taper/Registrar	Erin O./ Brock H./ Dan W. / Zach I.	19/3/18	
Treatment/Accessibilities & Accommodations/ Remote Communities	Dean G.	29/10/15	
Technology & Communication	Sarah R.	13/14/21	

All GSR's are strongly encouraged to attend the committee meeting (above) of their choice

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	COMMITTEE SHOWCASE	All Members!!	
10:45 AM -11:00 AM	Overview GSC Discussion/ How to Participate this Weekend	All Members!!	
11:00 AM- 12:15 PM	75th GSC Hot Topic Sharing Session	All Members!	
12:15 PM- 2:00 PM	LUNCH *on your own*	May the force be with you	
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	GSC Breakout Discussions- Pick whichever committee interests YOU	All Members!!	
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM	GSC Overview Sharing Session	All Members!!	

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner *On Your Own*	Don't Get Lost!
		All Members encouraged to attend and please participate with QR code below!

Sunday, April 6, 2025

8:00 AM- 8:45 AM	Open A.A. Breakfast Meeting	All Members Welcome!
9:00 AM- 10:45 AM	Officer/DCM/ Committee Highlights - clarify agenda items after each committee report	All Members!!
11:00 AM- 1:00ish PM	Area 41 Business Meeting -Roll Call -Old Business/New Business -Agenda Items Moved to Vote -New Agenda Items Presented	All Members!!

OLD BUSINESS: VOTING ITEMS (5)

(Vote

Agenda 2024-04-06 002 Technology & Communications (with consultation of Report & Charter): Dissolve the Taper service position and create a new Audio-Visual service position in its place. Because this position requires special skills and continuity, it will remain a six-year appointment. Area Chairperson to appoint. The service position would be overseen by the Technology and Communications Committee.

Scope:

- Ensure proper storage and adequate security of applicable equipment, and timely delivery and setup for Area assemblies.
- Manage the microphones/sound systems.
- Ensure that Area assemblies are audio-recorded, and that recordings are provided to the Chairperson and Secretary, and to the Archives.
 - Provide audio recording of other Area functions as requested by Chairperson, subject to the availability of the Audio-Visual servant.
- Make sure the projectors are working.
- Assist with slide sharing, logistics and/or hosting for virtual or hybrid assemblies.

Amend budget to move Taper position lodging, mileage, and "Area Taping" expense lines from Secretary to Technology and Communications Committee, and rename appropriately. Update lodging to be for two nights per assembly, to allow servant to arrive on Friday with equipment.

Amend the Area 41 Service Handbook to appropriately reflect these changes, and sunset any past actions in conflict.

Background: As the area becomes more and more modernized, the need for a person to manage several different pieces of technology instead of just recording assemblies has become apparent. This position and its proposed scope supports our primary purpose in Tradition Five—to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers—and the "Right of Participation" as described in Concept IV. At the request of the Area, and in support of Concepts X and XI, the voting item has been reworded as shown above.

The committee's intent regarding "proper storage and adequate security of applicable equipment" is to encourage equipment not be left in a common area or vehicle, for instance; but rather be kept in a personal space that is both locked and protected from the elements (such as home or garage).

Area 41 Service Handbook references to amend include: update "Taper" to "Audio-Visual" in Paragraphs II.C.2, III.C.2.c.iii, IV.B, and IV.B.3; and remove "Taper" reference from Report and Charter Committee scope in Paragraph V.B.9.b.

(VOTE)

AGENDA ITEM 2025 Corrections 01-11 017: The Area 41 Correctional Facilities Committee recommends the name of the committee be changed to Corrections. The name change would mirror the General Service Board (GSB) service structure and reflect what Area 41 currently calls the committee.

BACKGROUND: In the Area 41 Service Handbook, Eighth Edition, 2024; Page 2, Section V. B. 3, the committee is named, Correctional Facilities Committee, yet it is referred to as Corrections in the Area 41 Nebraska News (newsletter). The General Service Board (GSB) service structure uses the name Corrections. The name change would mirror the GSB and reflect what Area 41 is doing in practice.

(VOTE)

2022-04-02 006 Agenda Item Report & Charter: Update the scope of the Area Secretary (Area 41 Service Handbook page 11) to add item iv, "Send out an electronic Area 41 highlights communication to the Fellowship, suggested within two weeks of each Assembly, to include but not limited to, the results of the voting items and the voting items for the upcoming Assembly."

Background: Area 41 relies on several avenues of communication in order for Area business to happen through an informed group conscience – the Area 41 Newsletter, DCMs communicating back to their district/groups, GSRs communicating back to their group, etc. The Area 41 Newsletter is printed quarterly following each Area Assembly including the agenda for the next assembly, new business assigned to committees, and reports from officers, committees, and districts from the previous assembly. Over the years, there have been challenges in producing the newsletter in a timely fashion ensuring districts and groups are able to have an informed group conscience on matters being voted on at the Area assembly. Over the last several rotations, frustrations have been raised by varying members of Area 41 and each rotation has worked hard to improve communication to ensure all groups are able to participate in the business of the Area. During the 2022-2023 Rotation, the Report and Charter committee tested a few new ideas to see if they would improve communication. The first was an addition to the newsletter explaining how any member could receive a digital copy by signing up with the Secretary. The second was for the Secretary to send an Area Highlights message that included the results of the voting items from the Assembly and the upcoming voting items. The Highlights message ensured that groups and districts would be able to form an informed group conscience without a newsletter delay impacting the group conscience process. Positive feedback was received by the committee and as a result, the committee proposes continuing the Highlights message in future rotations.

(Vote)

2022-04-02 005 (a1) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Have a (voting) Business Meeting at 3 of our 4 Area 41 assemblies each year. Business Meetings would take place in April, October, and January. July would be a one day Service Assembly focused on workshops, fellowship, helping to educate our members and trusted servants, and may or may not include committee meetings. Any changes would begin after any current Area 41 hotel contract. If contract negotiations are taking place, those plans supersede the timing of this Agenda item. The passing of this agenda item shall suspend: AGENDA ITEM 2011-09-17 013 Agenda Area 41 consider scheduling Area 41 Business Meetings in January, March, July, and October with reunion meeting date to remain in June.

BACKGROUND: Comparatively, many other Areas spend more time studying the concepts of AA,training future leaders, and enjoying themselves, rather than spending much time arguing about business. A large portion of the time of the business meeting is roll call, & wordsmithing, & we could do that less. Cutting that time by having fewer business meetings is one item that would assist in the efficiency of time. We are seeking to make Area more efficient, not to take anything away.

The ad hoc committee feels the Area could adequately conduct its business in 2 business meetings, but understands the hesitancy to make such a drastic change, so our recommendation has changed from "2" to "3" business meetings. The ad hoc committee feels that it would be of importance to see if, having a larger gap between business meetings (i.e. newsletters) would also help to improve the inform group conscience by giving each group the necessary time to receive, discuss, and reflect on voting items before bring the voice of their group to the Area for a final vote. The longer gap between business meetings (April to October), can provide a comparison with our current format and timeframes (January through April), and perhaps inform future actions.

The July assembly could or could not be limited to: committee meetings, workshops, speakers, orientations, and anything else. With the addition of a hybrid option, there are now more opportunities for members to participate.

Area 41 is tasked with considering what is fiscally responsible. Meeting space used to be included for free at hotels & hotel rooms were \$70.00. Now, meeting space may cost between a few hundred to a thousand or more, and rooms have doubled. Some groups or Districts cannot afford to send trusted servants at that current rate. Asking a group to fund a GSR

4x per year may be cost prohibitive and hinder inclusive participation. According to Concept IV, "We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive," because we each "deeply desire to belong." Furthermore, the increased cost in meeting space and lodging is taking a larger percentage of our total revenue. The ad hoc committee agrees this is a financial situation we are currently surviving, but is this really fiscally sustainable for our FUTURE? The finance committee has been contacted and there is no financial statement. Definitions:

- The Area 41 Handbook defines a business meeting as: "is an activity at an Area 41 Assembly, usually scheduled for Sunday Morning" where "agenda item recommendations" "are discussed and voted upon..."
- THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL "REGULAR (NON-ELECTION) ASSEMBLY This kind of meeting is typically held multiple times during the year and may take different forms. Each area decides for itself on the number and interval between meetings. In some areas, a "regular" assembly meeting may be called a "workshop" or "general sharing session." To keep agendas lively and meaningful, some areas appoint agenda committees, which may include the officers and GSRs. Some areas choose to keep business to a minimum and use most of the time for sharing sessions or workshops. Special speakers who have experience with general service may also be invited to shed light on worldwide services." (p19)

(VOTE)

2022-04-02 005 (a2) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Vary the location of Area 41 Assembly meeting(s) that are NOT conducting a formal Business Meeting. Non-Business Assemblies, known as "Service Assemblies" in this Agenda Item, would ideally move to a different city than the "Business Assemblies," either rotating around the state or being in a permanent fixed location outside the city that hosts the Business meetings. Any changes would begin after any current Area 41 hotel contract. If contract negotiations are taking place, those plans supersede the timing of this Agenda item. Area 41 will secure a meeting space suitable for a day to host workshops and fellowship. The passing of this agenda item shall suspend: Jan. 2006 Motion that Area 41 Standing Committee meetings scheduled to run concurrently on Saturday morning of all Area meetings for 9am —noon, with appropriate breaks as determined within each committee.

BACKGROUND: Currently, we have not been able to afford moving our Area assemblies. Other Areas rotate their service days & look for smaller locations, such as schools, gyms, churches, etc. This may allow for more participation and better Unity throughout the Area by bringing Area to different parts of our state. Our Responsibility Statement charges us to extend our hand "when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help." Some of the rural groups and Districts have clearly and repeatedly stated that they cannot afford to send their members to Area. Bringing Service Assemblies closer to them may reduce the cost, and lower the barrier for participation. Area 41 is tasked with considering what is fiscally responsible. Meeting space used to be included for free at hotels & hotel rooms were \$70.00. Now, meeting space may cost between a few hundred to a thousand or more, and rooms have doubled. Some groups or Districts cannot afford to send trusted servants at that current rate. Asking a group to fund a GSR 4x per year may be cost prohibitive and hinder inclusive participation. According to Concept IV, "We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive," because we each "deeply desire to belong." Furthermore, the increased cost in meeting space and lodging is taking a larger percentage of our total revenue. The ad hoc committee agrees this is a financial situation we are currently surviving, but is this really fiscally sustainable for our FUTURE? Finance has been contacted and there is no financial statement.

NEW BUSINESS: ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE (2)

-Agenda Item 2025 Report and Charter 04-05 018:Transition Newsletter Printing Responsibility to Districts Effective immediately, Area 41 will discontinue centralized printing and mailing of newsletters. Instead:

- 1. Area 41 will provide all newsletter content digitally via email and the Area website.
- 2. Districts will be responsible for printing and distributing newsletters to members who request physical copies.

 3. Area 41 can offer guidance to districts on cost-effective printing methods, including sharing best practices and connecting them with local resources.
- **4.** Districts may use their local funds or contributions to cover printing costs. Background:

For years, Area 41 has faced ongoing challenges regarding the cost and logistics of printing and mailing newsletters. While digital distribution through email and the Area website has become the primary mode of communication, some members still prefer or require printed copies. However, continuing to print and distribute newsletters centrally has proven to be resource-intensive and financially burdensome. Empowering districts to take responsibility for providing printed copies to members who need them would decentralize the process, reduce costs, and increase local accountability.

Benefits of the Proposed Change:

- 1. Reduces financial and logistical strain on Area 41.
- 2. Empowers districts to tailor newsletter distribution to the needs of their local groups.
- 3. Encourages members to transition to digital communication while still providing support for those requiring physical copies.
- 4. Promotes collaboration and ownership of communication processes at the district level

Agenda Item 2024-01-06 003 Report & Charter: Area 41 to form a new Area committee tasked with hosting the area reunions. REUNION RECONFIGURATION

Rationale: During discussion of Reunion Host Committee at the July, 2022 Business Meeting, it was proposed that an Area 41-level Reunion committee be implemented. It was recognized, among other things that Districts have been hesitant toward hosting, and attendance has trended downward.

Given Area 41's timetable for business, this proposal could be approved in 2024 for implementation in 2025 for the 2026 Reunion.

EXPERIMENTAL: This proposal is for a four year trial period. It will sunset and the Reunion structure revert to the District-based organization if not adopted by the first (January) Assembly of the year – 2030 - following the fourth experimental event.

POSITIONS:

Alt Reunion Chair / Reunion Chair

Area Chair would prepare a slate of candidates from which the Area Assembly would select the Alt Reunion chair for the current year to serve as Reunion Chair for the following year. This would be done via the third legacy procedure. Then every January at the Area 41 Assembly a new slate would be prepared by the Area chair and a new Alt Reunion Chair would be elected for the current year to serve as Reunion Chair the following year.

Funding

The Alt Reunion Chair will be funded for two nights of hotel and mileage at the Area 41 rate to attend one Area 41 Reunion: the Area 41 Reunion which is held in year one of his/her selection to be Alt Reunion Chair and the Area 41 Reunion held in year two - in which he/she will be serving as the Reunion Chair. The Alt Reunion Chair will also be funded for one night of hotel and mileage at the Area 41 rate to attend the next two Area 41 assemblies.

The Reunion Chair will be funded for two nights of hotel and mileage at Area 41 rate to attend one Area 41 Reunion. The Reunion Chair will be funded for one night of hotel and mileage at the Area 41 rate to attend four Area 41 assemblies. The funds to cover the expenses of the Reunion Chair as well as the Alt Reunion Chair will come from Area 41 General Fund via the Area 41 Treasurer.

Funding for the following positions for two nights and mileage at Area 41 rate to attend the Area 41 Reunion should be added to each of the Officer & Committee Chairs' annual budgets rather than coming from the seed money that is provided to the Reunion Committee.

Area 41 Delegate, Area 41 Archives Chair, Area 41 Grapevine Chair, Area 41 Literature Chair

The funds needed to rent meeting space to hold the Area 41 Reunion should come from the Area 41 Alternate Delegate's budget rather than from the seed money that is provided to the Reunion Committee.

Subcommittee Chairs

The Host Committee may include, but is not limited to:

<u>i.</u>	Secretary
;;	Treasurer

iii. Facilities Coordinator (provide Reunion needs to the Alternate Delegate)

iv. Pre-Registration/Registration

v. Coffee

vi. Program Coordinator – planning, scheduling, etc.

vii. Speakers (A.A., Al-Anon, Alateen speakers. Seek input from those fellowships on their potential speakers).

viii. Social Activities – dance, ice cream social, etc.

ix. Others...decorations, speakers' hosts, greeters, security, publicity, etc. In general Area 41 encourages the Host Committee to enlist as many individuals as possible in the planning, development, and operation of the Area 41 Reunion.

Subcommittee Members

All A.A. members are eligible

Background: ASSEMBLED BY THE AREA 41 REUNION AD-HOC COMMITTEE:

Pluses of the Reunion

- Opportunity for members to hear Delegate's Report of the GSC
- -Lots of fellowship
- -More opportunities for service work

Challenges of the Reunion

- -Trend toward low attendance in recent years
- -Difficulty being self-supporting some years
- -Difficulty finding different districts willing to host the event
- -Difficulty getting host committee volunteers

Other Points Considered:

There may be some good information learned from the area Ad-hoc Function Committee. We don't currently have the benefit of knowing what any of that information may be.

Area 41 is currently locked in to having the Reunion through 2024 only. A vote is scheduled October 2023 to set dates and facility for 2025 and 2026 Reunion.

The Delegate's Report is given at the Reunion and also given approximately 1 month later at the Area business meeting. Sometimes it has been the same or a very similar report, but it doesn't have to be.

It's unknown what would be the Area financial ramifications of not having a reunion (the cost that could be saved not having a Reunion versus the change in costs for the other 4 annual business meetings without having a Reunion). We found that there were just too many variable such as dates, locations and different hotel policies to determine if eliminating the Reunion and meeting 4 times per year rather than 5 times would be financially beneficial to Area 41. We'd need to solicit actual bids for 4 meetings vs 5 meetings to know for certain what impact this would have on the Area finances.

We discussed at length the possibility of Area 41 establishing a Reunion Committee rather than having districts host it. We discussed having a one day event rather than having the Reunion last the entire weekend.

There was talk of somehow attaching the Reunion to the 4-Corners Workshop.

There was mention and discussion of the possibility of changing the Reunion date(s).

The Reunion is held when it is aligned with an Alanon Business meeting. Alanon's Service Conference is held in the spring just as our GSC is. Alanons in Nebraska meet 4 times per year (3 business meetings and 1 reunion). They meet in conjunction with Area 41 meetings at all except our January meetings.

We think we may need to advertise more.

We think providing more seed money could benefit some Reunion committees. Also, not being as adamant that the seed money be returned could help some committees.

We could use officers' and/or committee chairs' budgets (i.e. Delegate, Literature, Grapevine, Archives) rather than Reunion committee budget to pay for hotel sleeping rooms or meeting rooms.

Host districts could communicate more with previous host committees to get more information and ideas concerning reunion "best practices".

We could reconfigure the agenda of the Reunion. We could have workshops at the Reunion.

We were able to get some past Reunion attendance records and finance records. The results were as follows ----

We have financial information from 14 of the past 17 reunions. That shows an overall profit for the Reunion of \$5360.67. We have attendance records from 15 of the past 17 reunions. We consider the low attendance from the 2020 & 2021 as outliers rather than part of a trend since they were held during COVID. But there has been a downward trend from 2007 til now even though the number of attendees does not seem to correlate with the annual financial profits vs losses.

We feel that two of the major problems the Area is experiencing with the reunion are as follows:

- 1. We discussed the fact that there doesn't always seem to be a lot of interest shown from individual districts who would like to volunteer to host the reunion.
- 2. We think more continuity is needed from year to year with each new reunion committee.

ITEMS STILL IN COMMITTEE (9)...

- Agenda Item 2022-10-09 014 Technology & Communication: To create an Email Subscription Service
- -Agenda Item 2023-04-15 008b Technology and Communications: Create guidelines and answer Traditions questions for future Area 41 purchases of electronic equipment. Determine who Area 41 should purchase electronic equipment for, how the items should be handled, used, protected, stored or passed along. Address questions of ongoing costs (subscriptions, maintenance, etc.) have not been addressed.
- -Agenda Item 2025 Report and Charter 01-11 016: Name Change for the "Reunion" to "Delegate's Report & Service Summit"

-Agenda Item 2024-07-13 008 Report & Character (AATRC/Tech & Comm): Explore offering Spanish translation for all Area 41 events including 4-corners workshops and assemblies.

-2022-04-02 005 (a3) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: For a trial run of 3 rotations, pause the 4-Corners workshops and its requisite service position at Area 41, if the agenda item voting to hold one day service assemblies in a separate city than the Area 41 Business Meeting passes. The passing of this agenda item shall suspend: April 1990 Motion for the Area to sponsor having a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 one day workshops per year by any Area Committee that is asked for the four corners of the State utilizing Area funds.

-2022-04-02 005 (b) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Replace GSR & DCM Workshops with Topic

Workshop(s). The passing of this item will repeal the GSR Workshop and alternate GSR Workshop positions.

- -2022-04-02 005 (c) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: The Area Chair is to appoint committee chair and service positions from a pool of interested candidates, nominations, and anyone else that the Area Chair may identify as a suitable candidate. The final slate of candidates to be approved by the Area by a ½ vote.
- -2022-04-02 005 (d) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Area 41 should invite a speaker once per year from another Area, at the purview of the Area Chair.
- -2022-04-02 005 (e) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Keeping in mind the always existing right of decision of the area chair and agenda committee, and that sometimes special circumstances arise, the fellowship would like it known that they appreciate efforts to attempt business meetings on Saturdays.

Business Meeting Minutes: January 12th, 2025

Opened with roll call 82 members present

Workshop chair election scope was read Service resumes were given

Cat O. -49

Pat D. -5

Cory E.-28

Vote was simple majority because its not 3rd legacy 42 is the votes needed, and Congrats Cat O. Our new workshop chair.

-Agenda Item 2021-07-10 017 Agenda: Area 41 conduct hybrid meetings as an option for virtual, as well as physical, attendance at Area 41 assemblies and business meetings. The hybrid meetings will utilize some borrowed equipment from A.A. members for a period of one year. In addition to borrowed equipment, Area 41 would purchase equipment up to an estimated initial investment of \$450 including tax. At the end of this period, the hybrid meetings would continue with the Area purchasing additional necessary equipment. Collaboration between the Technology and Communications Committee and Agenda Committee is encouraged, with regards to implementation and service rotation.

The floor was opened for discussion. The discussion highlighted several logistical and technical concerns regarding the hybrid option. The primary concerns included ensuring anonymity for votes cast from home, preventing unauthorized access, and determining the number of Zoom accounts required for efficient operation. Financial concerns were raised about the cost of equipment (\$450) and the ongoing financial implications, particularly for smaller groups. Additionally, there was a need for sufficient and reliable equipment, such as cameras with covers and microphones, and consideration of the approval and timing for acquiring additional equipment. Ensuring accessibility and balancing in-person attendance with virtual participation were also important topics. Sarah clarified that the \$450 is an initial cost and that future approval would be needed before the fourth assembly. She also mentioned that the hybrid setup aims to increase accessibility and participation in committee meetings and would be available for all events without dictating who can attend in person or virtually. Members shared their experiences during the pandemic, highlighting both the benefits and challenges of virtual participation, including concerns about anonymity. There were also discussions about the importance of in-person interactions and the potential impact of increased virtual participation. The group emphasized the need for backup internet solutions to address potential equipment failures.

Vote: 70-6 item passes

Minority voice- was heard, concerns that people wont come, and thought there was too much in there that was too vague.

-Agenda 2024-04-06 002 Technology & Communications (with consultation of Report & Charter): Dissolve the

Taper service position and create an Audio-Visual service position. Because this position requires special skills and continuity, it ought to remain a six-year appointment. Area Chairperson to appoint a servant to serve through the remainder of 2025. The service position would be overseen by the Technology and Communications Committee.

Also amend the Area 41 Service Handbook to appropriately reflect these changes. Amend budget to move Taper position lodging, mileage, and "Area Taping" expense lines from Secretary to Technology and Communications Committee, and rename appropriately. Update lodging to be for two nights per assembly, to allow servant to arrive on Friday with equipment.

Committee wanted to amend to strike thru the remainder of 2025

-Agenda 2024-04-06 002 Technology & Communications (with consultation of Report & Charter): Dissolve the Taper service position and create an Audio-Visual service position. Because this position requires special skills and continuity, it ought to remain a six-year appointment. Area Chairperson to appoint. The service position would be overseen by the Technology and Communications Committee. Also amend the Area 41 Service Handbook to appropriately reflect these changes. Amend budget to move Taper position lodging, mileage, and "Area Taping" expense lines from Secretary to Technology and Communications Committee, and rename appropriately. Update lodging to be for two nights per assembly, to allow servant to arrive on Friday with equipment.

By acclimation amendment by committee was accepted by the body.

Concept 10 emphasizes the importance of clearly defining the scope of service authority, particularly when designing job descriptions. This would include outlining the responsibilities, duties, and expectations for the new position, as well as the necessary qualifications and skills. With this item there is a decision to dissolve an existing position completely and replace it with a new one, with the intent for this change to take effect immediately. It's important to ensure that the job description is comprehensive and aligns with the principles of Concepts 10 and 11, potentially requiring further discussion and review before making an appointment. Additionally, the process for recording audio should be clear, with audio recordings being submitted to the archives

Motion was made to recommit to committee and seconded

Vote 59-14

Minority opinion was heard- seems like a waste of time, better to get this done. We should see where the vote is. No motion to reconsider was made. Recommitted to tech and communications.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Delegate:

Good morning, Area 41!

Happy New Year! As we begin the second year of this rotation, I've been reflecting on my first year serving as your delegate, and I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity to represent our area and serve the Fellowship. I'm excited to continue carrying the conscience of our groups and our work strengthening our services so this program is still here for the person who doesn't even know they will need us, just like it was for me. Thank you all for your trust and support so far. Since our October meeting, I've had the opportunity to report back to six districts, with a few more scheduled before April. These report backs have been a highlight of my first year—connecting with members across the state and sharing what's happening in our Fellowship. If I haven't visited your District yet, it's not too late! Let me know, and we'll set something up that works for you, whether that's focused on Conference updates or more about service in general. It's also not too early to start thinking about report backs for the 75th General Service Conference—I'll be back in early May and would love to connect with your district!

As a General Service Conference committee chair, I've participated in several orientations, and I'll be attending my third this week. The sessions so far have largely focused on what the trustees think conference committees can and can't do. I've been left reflecting on Concept Two, the state of our upside-down triangle, and the intriguing dynamic when one level of service seems to be instructing those they are meant to serve. Nonetheless, I'm looking forward to attending the General Service Board weekend at the end of the month as the Conference Public Information Chair, and I'm hopeful that it will provide a meaningful opportunity to advance our committee's work.

I hope to see you at the West Central Region A.A. Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Casper, WY, February 28 – March 2. This is a fantastic weekend of fun, fellowship, workshops, service discussions, and, of course, a cup or two of ice cream! If you need help finding a ride or a place to stay, let me know—I'll be happy to connect you with others. There will also be an option to participate via Zoom. Flyers are available in the newsletter, on the website, and on the back table in English and Spanish.

As we approach the 75th General Service Conference, we have a preliminary agenda, and the final one should be available by mid-late February, along with the background information. Please take time to review it and share any feedback with me—your input is essential to my preparation, don't be shy! I'll be keeping you updated via email as the final agenda and background becomes available. There will be several ways for you to participate, including through online sharing

sessions, a survey, and in-person at the April assembly. If you have any ideas for how we can increase participation in this process, I'm all ears. There are also flyers for the April Assembly on the back table and in the newsletter. We will also be joined by Scott H., the chair of the General Service Board, and he will speak Saturday night.

Regarding the three agenda items Area 41 submitted, the Board has taken no action on them meaning they will not likely be on the conference agenda, though there may still be discussion on them in conference committees. The Board's responses were vague: the minutes were deemed not for reporting and the Board expressed its right of decision to not share them; the reserve fund policy was considered sufficient as is; and the trustee election procedure was declined because regional trustees are not seen as regional representatives. Additionally, a district in our area submitted a PAI to censure the Board, which also saw no action with the Board citing they disagreed.

I previously shared that the Board has declined to circulate the list of proposed agenda items, despite an advisory action requiring its distribution. Unfortunately, there has been no change or an update after the trustees agreed to reconsider this issue at a meeting in December. However, a delegate was able to compile an almost complete list using leaked Board minutes, and I'd be happy to share that list if you're interested.

Mark your calendars for the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha September 19-21! This is a fantastic opportunity to interact with staff members from the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine, and members of the General Service, A.A.W.S, and the A.A Grapevine boards. Our Area only hosts the forum once every 16 years, so let's make the most of it! If you'd like to get involved in the local volunteer committee, let me know. I've asked Jenny R. from Omaha to chair the local volunteer committee.

Here are a few updates from the General Service Office:

- The second printing of the Plain Language Big Book is now available. The General Service Board has assured the
 delegates this printing complies with the Conference Advisory Action that approved the book.
- A call went out this week for military veterans willing to participate in the ongoing military outreach audio project. I'll send more information shortly, or feel free to reach out if you're interested.
- The official General Service Office podcast will debut on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, called *Our Primary Purpose*. It will explore how GSO supports A.A. groups and members in carrying the message.
- Price increases for Grapevine and La Viña will take effect February 1, 2025, and there will also be price increases for A.A.W.S. discount literature packages starting January 22, 2025.
- The 2025 International Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from July 3-6, 2025. Check out aa.org for more details—rooms are still available!

Last, but certainly not least—and perhaps the most exciting news of all—I'm excited to share that I'll be hosting an online Twelve Concepts study this year. Stay tuned for a flyer with all the details. You're all warmly invited to join us as we welcome speakers from other Areas who will share their experience, strength, and hope around our Third Legacy. I can't wait to embark on this journey together and deepen our understanding of these vital principles!

That was a lot to cover, but as always, there's so much to share! Thank you for your participation and continued service to our Fellowship. If there's anything I can do to support your group or district, don't hesitate to reach out. In love and service, Nick

Alternate Delegate:

Greetings Area 41!

It's a privilege to serve as your Alternate Delegate! Thank you for this opportunity to get uncomfortable again! If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans! It is such an honor to be able to serve Area 41 with such a wonderful group of officers! I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Delegates Zoom meeting, and to be a part of NAAD Zoom meetings. North American Alternate Delegate meeting. It's great to be able to get to meet more of our Fellowship from across the country! I will be trying to stay close to our Delegate Nick, so as to stay as informed as I can on the upcoming General Service Conference Agenda Items. It is a real blessing to be able to go through this process with someone as knowledgeable with the West Central, GSB, and the GSC as Nick is!

The January Business Assembly went very well! I had a few mistakes, but there was always someone there to help me out! I am looking forward to the 4-Corners Workshop in St. Paul, NE. on January 25! It's always fun to take a road trip to another part of the state to share our experience, strength, and hope! I also am planning on attending the District Workshop in Omaha on February 9. Speakers are Erika, Ricardo, and Nick. And we are looking forward to going to the District 7 Workshop in McCook on March 29! The theme is CPC/PI. Wishing everyone safe travels and hope to see you at an Area 41 event soon!! Grateful to be of service! Russ S.

Chair:

Good morning Area 41!

I have had an exciting quarter full of reading through inventory results. I want to say that I'm grateful for Janine to help compile the results into a more readable format than the notes I had created. A report will be available in April with our committee showcase, in our report and available on the website.

The agenda committee and I always welcome your feedback on the agenda for our assembly weekends, we do our best to accommodate whatever committees ask for time to hold workshops, and we're open to try new things. If you are interested in this, anyone is welcome to join our zoom meetings where we finalize the agenda, you can help us design this schedule. The extended meal breaks, while it seems like it cuts into our time, the pay offs appear to be that we've seen an increase in participation in evening sessions and overall lower stress.

If you have agenda items you'd like to submit, please get them to me by Jan. 22 so we can get them distributed to their proper committee. The agenda committee will meet virtually on Jan. 22 at 6:30pm, if you'd like to join us let me know I'll send you the information. A reminder, a couple days after this meeting the schedule for the April assembly, the voting items, items assigned to committee and items still in committee are posted at area41.org. You can access them just that quick! No need to wait for a completed newsletter, you have the available information as soon as 16 days after the assembly, then Erin sends them out with the highlights.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2 weeks in St. Paul at the 4 corners workshop, in a month in Casper Wyoming and don't forget to spread the word about Scott H. coming in April. It's not often we get the chair of the GSB to come to our assemblies, the agenda committee has plenty of time for him to not only share his recovery story, but his service journey and lots of time for Q&A. You and your group will be able to share your feedback with him and your delegate on GSC items and the GSB happenings. If this isn't enough you'll be able to do it all again in September at the forum in Omaha. As always thanks for allowing me to serve and continue to learn and grow as I do this thing. I look forward to our committee showcase and hearing your feedback on these new ideas.

Yours in Service, Cara G.

Secretary:

Happy New Year Area 41,

What a great start we are off to this weekend! I have really enjoyed seeing all your faces and even meeting my home groups GSR in person for the first time this weekend! I've gotten to meet several people here for their first area, and I hope to see you next time also! I also wanted to thank my committee for some really thoughtful work yesterday. I got the opportunity to travel across the state to Beatrice in October. It's always a pleasure to get to travel to another meeting and see some familiar faces and meet some new ones too. Side note maybe check the route your navigation is taking you, or at least fill up with gas first. Just a suggestion. Good news though, AA's are always willing to help each other out, shout out to Wayne for buying a gas can and bringing me some gas!

I'm ready to hit the ground running this year, we have a 4 corners workshop coming up in about 2 weeks in St. Paul I am looking forward to attending, then at the end of next month there's WCRAASC in Casper and I'm super excited that my drive will be shorter than most of my service trips. Also looking forward to the April assembly, not only to help prepare our delegate for the confrence but also for our special guest speaker! Lots of things to look forward to in the near future. Friendly reminder to get your reports to me within 10 days so they can make it in the newsletter. I thank you for the opportunity to serve and grow, I hope to see many of you at St. Paul and Casper! Blessings, Erin

Treasurer:

First Quarter, 2025

Good morning Area 41

I am looking forward to seeing a bunch of you again here in a couple weeks at the Four Corner Workshop in St Paul and again at the West Central Regional in Casper

Durning our monthly meetings this quarter the finance committee worked on cleaning up the prudent reserve account and bringing it inline with our financial guidelines. We also had lengthy discussions on how workshops need to be funded and that funding relayed to the assembly.

Now to the numbers

I do want to let you know that the precise numbers you hear this morning will change slightly by the time you read this report on the website or in the newsletter as I am still chasing down about \$2000 in outstanding budgeted allocations to see if they will be spent or need to rolled back into the General fund. I have also received a rather robust handful of seventh traditions contributions which had been mailed to past treasurers. Based on the postage date on the envelopes, some of these contributions will need to be applied to the 2024 fiscal year.

As of today with all accounts funded for the first quarter of 2025:

Main Account stands at: 18,337.17 *
Prudent Reserve stands at: 18,006.90

Contributions for fourth quarter were: 7392.44

77 unique groups made contributions Average contribution was 104.57 Median contribution was 65.92

30 of the contributions were under \$50, thank you to all the small groups that make all of this possible.

Our 2024 contributions were 36,345.27 *
The 2024 projected expenses were 34,372
The 2024 actual expenses stand at 35,347.62 *

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.

Numbers with asterisk have been update since assembly, they are current as on 01/17/2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibilities, Accommodations, Treatment, and Remote Communities:

Greetings Area 41,

The Treatment, Accessibilities, Accommodations and Remote Communities Committee met at 9:00am with 8 people in attendance. We opened with the Serenity prayer followed by Traditions and Concepts. After introductions we read the Scope of our Committee and the previous minutes.

We discussed the new Bridging the Gap function on the Area Website. The link is working and I have begun to receive submissions. We will be utilizing the DCM's to assist in finding local contacts for individuals looking to bridge the gap to Alcoholics Anonymous. These contacts will help aid individuals about to be released from Treatment find A.A. meetings and introduce them to the fellowship. So, if Districts wish to be proactive, they could assemble their own list of volunteers who would be willing to help with this. Our committee will reach out on a case by case basis to find the right Fellows for each submission.

We have a list of Treatment facilities that may utilize Bridging the Gap. However, given that many of these places do not have readily available email addresses, we have pivoted and will be sending out a mailer instead.

I was asked to visit with the Corrections Committee and answer questions they had regarding Bridging the Gap. I explained that while Treatment Centers fall under our Scope, we will be able to take submissions from individuals in Correctional Facilities or other locations where people may be in need of a connection to the Fellowship. The group agreed they would like the Area41.org/BTG link added to the next order of CPC/PI's wonderful Contact Cards.

Back in my own Committee, we discussed the table display we will have for the Conference in April. Everyone is excited to put this together and shared many thoughts on what we can do for it.

Lastly, we discussed the Agenda Items up for vote.

There are no agenda items assigned to our committee at this time. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Dean G. T.A.A.R.C. Chair

Agenda:

Committee: Agenda Committee

Date: January 11, 2025 Attendance: 11 people

Opening:

The meeting was opened by the Area 41 Chair and reading.

Reports:

Workshop Report: Presented by the Workshop Chair.

Minutes: Read by the Agenda Secretary.

o Motion to approve the minutes from October 24, 2024. Motion seconded and approved. Inventory Workshop for July: Committee is organizing a two-hour, solution-focused workshop in July to address the challenges that the October inventory identified which are: communication, newsletter, financial prudence, and the effective use of digital tools like the website. The workshop will feature small breakout groups facilitated by Agenda committee members, with structured discussions aimed at generating actionable agenda items. The Committee decided to follow a similar process that was implemented in October 2024. It is the hope of the committee that the small groups will be able to collaborate and develop actionable solution oriented actions to address the challenges identified.

Inventory Report: 1 page summary report to be ready for printing to be reviewed by the Committee January 22 and to be submitted for Newsletter publication.

Agenda Item Discussion: No agenda items in committee

April 2025 Assembly Planning:

April Assembly will be formatted similarly to April, 2024.

Guest: Scott H, General Service Board Chair, Class B Trustee who is the lowest person in the triangle and will be the guest speaker

Creating a Committee showcase where we can "show off" what we do. 3 panel display board to present information easily. Cara to organize with help.

Requests for workshops by committee chairs are being accepted.

 $DCM\ highlights-2\ min\ timer\ for\ today.\ Discussion\ around\ how\ could\ we\ change\ the\ presentation\ of\ report\ structure.$

Outgoing Workshop Chair will help in the transition to new Chair.

Next Meeting:

Zoom meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Closure:

Motion to close the meeting was seconded and passed. The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement.

In Service, Janine J, Agenda Committee Secretary

Archives:

Hello Area 41!

Archives Committee met at 9:01am. We opened with a moment of silence for the still suffering alcoholic followed by the Serenity Prayer. Committee secretary read last quarters Archive report.

Introductions were made. Archives Chair gave a report on the field trip to the Archives Repository on November 2nd. Photos of the repository space were shared with the committee members who were unable to attend. I was also able to retrieve a digital audio recorder during that vist.

We continued discussion about digitizing our Area 41 History, Area 41 Reunion History, Area 41 4 Corners Workshop History and District History. We're still in the beginning stages of that work intensive project. If anyone has availability to assist our Area 41 Archivist, please reach out to her.

Speaking of our Archivist, she wasn't able to make it out this weekend as she had hoped. We will pickup talks on Scope & Responsibility at the October Assembly.

We took a break at 955am, reconvening at 1015am. After a successful search during the break, we were able to locate the Oral History Kit which included sample interview questions. After running through the questions, each member was asked if they remembered their 1st AA meeting-a brief sharing session ensued.

Ken B gave a short breakdown about the Archives Workshop he was presenting at on Saturday evening.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer at 1047am with 11 members in attendance.

I am looking forward to the upcoming 4-Corners Workshop in St Paul and the WCRAASC in Casper, WY-because who doesn't love going to Wyoming in the middle of Winter! I hope to see many of you there!

Archives Survey Results-October 2024 Assembly

1) How familiar are you with the Area 41 Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Committee?

Very Familiar- 14%

Somewhat Familiar- 58%

Not Familiar- 28%

2) Have you used any materials from the Archives Committee?

Yes- 35%

No- 65%

3) How important is the Archives Committee for preserving AA History?

Very Important- 70%

Somewhat Important- 28%

Not Very Important- 2%

4) How easy is it to access the Archives?

Very Easy- 19%

Somewhat Easy- 44%

Not Easy- 23%

5) Would you be interested in events hosted by the Archives Committee?

Yes- 81%

No- 14%

Didn't Answer- 5%

6) Has learning about AA History changed your view of AA?

Yes- 98%

No- 2%

7) What can the Archives Committee do better?

Multiple Responses

8) How well do you understand the difference between the Archivist and the Archives Chairperson?

Very Well- 23%

Somewhat- 51%

Not At All- 26%

9) In your opinion, how important is the role of the Archivist compared to the Archives Chairperson?

Very Important- 58%

Somewhat Important- 28%

Not Important- 0%

Didn't Answer- 14%

10) Do you feel that the roles of the Archivist and the Archives Chairperson are clearly defined within the Area 41 Committee?

Yes- 40%

No- 40%

Didn't Answer- 20%

Special thanks to Ken B for his informative presentation! Also, a HUGE thank you to everyone who filled out the Archives Survey last quarter! The responses will help us determine how we proceed forward.

We have no agenda items in committee. In Service, Char S

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information:

Greetings Area 41,

Meeting started at with 14 people. Started with the serenity prayer followed by the cpc mission statement.

The 1800 number had been receiving 3-4 calls a week, most of which are directed to the website for a meeting. If we are signed up we need to answer our phones, they said we are doing better and especially because of the new website. There will be 3 workshops soon check the website for more details. We have new business cards with a QR code for area 41 website. There are plenty of places to use these, Healthcare, courts, probation offices, police, counseling, ER rooms etc. The GSO website has PSA radio commercials ready to use and easy to download. Yours in service, Jeff W.

Corrections:

Hello I'm Marsha and I'm an alcoholic. The Correctional Facilities Committee opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. There were seventeen people in attendance and introductions were made. It was a lively committee meeting with lots of discussion and participation. The report from the October Business Assembly was read. More work was done on the list of AA meetings and volunteers taking meetings into the correctional facilities. The list will be on the website soon so all those people who want to volunteer can find out when and where to do corrections service work. We are always looking for more volunteers.

The Omaha Bridging the Gap (BTG) Chair joined the meeting to share information about how BTG works in Omaha. They are ready for on line requests and 43 people have volunteered to be temporary contacts to get people to AA meetings. The chair of the Treatment/Accessibilities/Remote Communities (TARC) Committee also joined the meeting to share how the Area 41 BTG works. The Area 41 website is also available for on line requests for temporary contacts. The group was grateful for the information and will help get the word out.

The following, Agenda Item 2025 Corrections 01-11-017: The Area 41 Correctional Facilities Committee recommends the name of the committee be changed to Corrections. The name change would mirror the General Service Board service structure and reflect what Area 41 currently calls the committee, was reviewed and moved out of committee for a vote at a future Area 41 Business Assembly. There was discussion about the committee meeting being a hybrid meeting but no decision was made. There is a plan to have at least one ZOOM meeting in between Area 41 Business Assemblies to stay connected and help carry out the work that was decided on in the committee meeting.

The Delegate joined the meeting to encourage people to attend the WCRAASC in Casper Wyoming and the WC Forum in Omaha Nebraska. We discussed ideas for the Committee Show Case at the April 2025 Assembly. Networking occurred between committee members to help take AA meetings into the correctional facilities across district lines. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Yours in Service, Marsha S.

Finance:

Q1 2025 Finance Committee Report

Committee met with seven in attendance. Meeting opened with Jeff reading the traditions.

Committee reviewed the 2024 Financial Review prepared by the treasurer. We discussed each of the committees that ended the year over budget and discussed the reason for each being over. Committee agreed that the note included for each was sufficient.

Committee reviewed the accounts that were under budget and discussed what, if any, notation should be made regarding why the account was under budget. Committee advised the treasurer to include the following notations:

In general, committees tend to be under budget due to not using their full mileage allocation due to carpooling with other members of the fellowship.

Committee discussed if any further action should be taken to improve expense reports. Committee advised that no additional reminders on format changes were needed. But we did recommend that chairs be given the option to write Seventh Tradition for funds that the chair wishes not to accept on their expense reports.

Committee discussed options to make funding for Four Corner Workshops more easily identifiable. We discussed moving mileage costs under the workshop budget and increasing the placeholder amount from \$25 to \$75. We will begin using the mileage placeholder value during the 2026 budgeting process. Committee voted to increase the area allocation for facility rental to \$150 per event.

We were joined by our delegate briefly and he planted the seed of area hosting a hospitality event at the 2025 forum in Omaha. Delegate requested to be reimbursed \$218.32 for purchase of new service manuals for area officers, chairs and committee members. Committee approved request.

Committee recommended that the treasurer begin preparing a report to demonstrate the costs of area events, including mileage and hotel charges for attendees so that the fellowship would have a clearer picture of the costs of these events. Committee discussed what we should do for our committee science fair project in April. While the idea of cash volcanoes was popular; we thought other visuals might cause less of a mess while still conveying the point that our committee's role is to effectively direct the fellowships money to the projects they have decided to fund.

Grapevine:

Greetings Area 41,

Well we closed out another year and getting fired up and ready for 2025.

In Grapevine we started the meeting at 9:00 with the serenity prayer with 10 members present. In committe we discussed the closeout of 2024 with the 4th quarter beginning bal of 3227.09, and ending balance 252.26 total sales for 2024 347.60 Card 136.25 cash 10.44 square fee, net total 473.41 Final amount 783.56. We went on to discuss the list of the members who made purchases thru the grapevine. Theres 5 on the list now so if I didnt get your info come see me if I didnt ask you. It is going to be a deluxe subscription print and digital so its a deal. We will take names with purchases and draw in October we moved on in committee and discussed ways to improve sales and decided at the next assembly we will be constructing billboards and QR codes for display at the grapevine table which will be handed out at the regional forum later this year in September. We also discussed ways to acquire propaganda from GSO, we then discussed turnover reports and getting things gathered up to build our binder for the incoming chairpersons we then made a motion to close and ended at 10:01 there was no agenda items in committee.

Yours in Service, Chuck S.

Literature:

The Area 41 Literature Committee meeting opened at 9:00 AM, with Clifford reading the 12 Traditions. We had four attendees representing Districts 4, 6, 7 and 24. The committee reviewed and approved the previous committee minutes. The second "Pamphlet Challenge" of 2024 is now done. it began on 01JUL and ended on 31DEC. District 7 is the winner, so they will receive \$10.00 from the literature committee. Congratulations district 7 & District 7 is the winner, we also still have plenty of Newcomer, Correction, Service & District 7 & Dis

The Literature Committee discussed and voted on pamphlets to include in the upcoming month's "Pamphlet Spotlight". We have a ton of great literature. This "Pamphlet Spotlight" will hopefully challenge us to read more of it. The pamphlets we selected for the next four months are: February—P-24 "A Newcomer Asks"; March—P-31 "A.A. in Your Community."; April—P-17 "A.A. Tradition How it Developed. All pamphlets are free to download at aa.org—just put the

pamphlet number (i.e. P-13) in the search box on the webpage and hit the "View PDF" button. They can also be purchased at your local Central Office, online at onlineliterature.aa.org, or at your Area 41 Literature table.

Unfortunately, last quarter I did not have the opportunity to attend any area, district or group events outside the Area Assembly in October. The calendar for the first quarter of 2025 has already got a lot of great events scheduled. Looking forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events. Thank you for supporting the Area 41 Literature Committee through your purchases. If you haven't got me scheduled to attend your group or district event, please contact me at 402-326-0871 or email at literature@area41.org . We closed at 11:35 am with the Declaration of Unity.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Mark S.

Report and Charter:

Report and Charter January 11, 2025

The Committee started at 9:02 with 11 in attendance.

The committee first took up **2022-04-02-006 Agenda Item Report and Charter:** Update the scope of the Area Secretary (Area 41 Service Handbook page 11) to add item iv. "Send out an electronic Area 41 highlights communication to the Fellowship, suggested within two weeks of each Assembly, to include the results of the voting items and the voting items for the upcoming Assembly." The motion was moved to a vote for the next Area Meeting 9-1.

Good news, as the January Newsletter reflects, we have an updated Map. There was a motion to accept 10-0. A printable map should be available on the website in color in the future.

New business. Agenda Item **2025-01-11-016 Report and Charter:** Name change for the "Reunion" to "Delegate's Report and Service Summit." Item was discussed and the Items was tabled, pending the Finance Committees decision on another Reunion Item. 10-0.

We discussed issues with the Newsletter. An Amende was made. We reiterated our support for the Newsletter Chair. Agenda Item **2024-07-13-008**. Explore Spanish Translation. The items was discussed. We reviewed again the responses from other Areas, as to how they handle translation. We plan to have a Zoom meeting in the interim with Tech and Communications, AARC, the delegate and the District 31 DCM. The Item was tabled.

The Committee is planning to meet on February 9th at noon on Zoom.

One member was browsing through past actions and stumbled upon Item 2007-01-13 001. The item addresses Area highlights and is not in line with the practices of today. We discussed it and the committee is making contact the officer this Item assign the highlights.

Zack has translated the Area 41 handbook into Spanish. Erica volunteered to help with the effort to proofread. We are also asking the District 31 DCM to take a look at it.

We closed at 11:48 with the Responsibility Statement.

Items Still in Committee

Agenda Item 2025-01-11-016 Report and Charter: Name change for the "Reunion" to "Delegate's Report and Service Summit."

Agenda Item 2024-07-13-008. Explore Spanish Translation

Reunion:

Our committee is up and running. Save the date for June 6-8th. Any Districts interested in participating in the food court with a host table contact me. An update is necessary for our committee. Originally this Reunion was hosted by Districts 3 and 29. In July the DCM from 29 resigned from his postion. The two Districts are still the host. I visited District 29 in September and the GSR's there were eager to participate. Doug a GSR from 29 is the treasurer.

Technology and Communications:

Good morning, Area 41,

The Technology and Communications committee continues to meet monthly online, in between assemblies. We met on November 9 and December 14 for 90 minutes, each time with six members in attendance. We also met yesterday for our full three hours, with a total of 17 members in attendance, including one online. We continue to welcome new members, and our future committee meetings will be posted on the area41.org events calendar.

We are humbled by the positive feedback in response to our website updates. Forward kudos are due to Loren and Chris for helping me with the technical work; and to Rebecca, Terri, and Tom, for their countless hours brainstorming the site structure last spring. Our site migration would not have been so efficient without their foundational work.

The overarching theme of hot topics in our committee can be summarized as how do our printed publications and our website work together? Yesterday (January 11) also brought up the difference of anonymity versus confidentiality. There are more conversations to be had, and it sounds like the Agenda Committee has a July workshop that may address this among other items.

General Website Updates

The committee reviewed the most recent content additions to the website. Please know the committee always welcomes continued feedback on this.

It was suggested to add "click here" text to the Background headings on the Agenda post. This is currently added as a "Details" WordPress block: a heading or summary appears with "hidden content" that can be shown/hidden by the reader. The headings have been edited to read: "Background (click to expand)". They could also be set to be "open" by default. Having the background details "closed" by default helps the Agenda posts be more concise to navigate, leaving the user to "open" each background one at a time.

The committee also prepared a list of meta keywords to add to the website—these are keywords we want our site to be found for. While search engine rankings largely ignore meta keywords at the present time, it can still be helpful to identify them as a tool to help ensure our ongoing website content is naturally including these keywords—encouraging content based natural ranking.

Added to site: aa nebraska, nebraska aa, area 41, area 41 aa, nebraska aa meeting, alcohol help, alcohol meetings at church, alcohol meetings at hospital, in person aa meetings, online aa meetings, where can i get a big book, area forty one, area 41 newsletter, alcoholics anonymous nebraska, alcoholics anonymous area 41, aa area 41, aa area nebraska, aa nebraska area, aa in my area, alcoholics anonymous, get help with alcohol, nebraska alcoholics anonymous, nebraska area alcoholics anonymous

Yet to be added (will include all key cities from table on District page, plus any requested by the fellowship): (city) aa, (city) aa meetings, aa meeting near (city). Please forward your additional suggestions any time.

Additional old business relating to general website tasks that remains in committee:

- Email subscription service the committee questioned if this is still needed if the revamped website accomplishes the need. Wondered if we could have another sharing session with the area? Would we prefer a "latest posts" feed on the homepage? (Current general consensus is to keep Home clean.) A member asked could we replace the newsletter?
- Increase users posting content.
- Use other committee members to reach out to other entities/service positions within the area on a recurring basis for content.
- District map have received an open source online map tool from national AA technology workshop. All
 areas are invited to add their service area. Will consult with Report & Charter to add this to the other map
 formats being provided.
- We revisited the question of do we need a password on member services documents, and will be contacting some other committees regarding some documents-particularly some finance documents and the past actions.
- Past action sanitizing Rebecca willing to help. Intention is to propose what would need to be redacted to
 have this document properly sanitized for the web. It should be noted that the Area 41 Website Guidelines
 indicate that even documents behind passwords should be scrubbed if on our web server. The past actions in
 their current state do not align with our website guidelines.
- Update website guidelines. Make sure to include webmaster responsibilities and ensure that we encourage redundancy in having multiple trained servants.
- Meeting list update collaboration between Area 41 and Lincoln and Omaha Intergroups. This was addressed
 with the suggestion to have each entity add the other two web servant email addresses to their Twelve Step
 Meeting List (TSML) email notifications. Then the Omaha and Lincoln Intergroups can update the meetings
 applicable to them and ignore the rest. Notifications have been setup in Area 41 and Omaha TSML plug-ins.
 Lincoln is currently forwarding notifications manually to the Area 41 webmaster.
 - Will likely update Area 41 email linked to TSML to meetings@area41.org. This is currently an alias on the webmaster account, and creates potential for another servant to assist with meeting list updates in the future.
- Omaha Intergroup has also been in communication with me to discuss their upcoming website improvements, and how we might collaborate/cooperate regarding redundant district content between the intergroup and area websites.
- Search Area 41 Service Handbook and past actions listing for "web" to identify any additional past website
 content suggestions that might have slipped through the cracks?
- Phone numbers on event fliers/event pages. A.A. Guidelines for Internet state: "Due to search services on the Internet, it is now possible to utilize phone numbers to find out a person's identity, including full names and,

possibly, other personal information. If A.A. members become increasingly uneasy with personal phone numbers being placed on flyers, event committees may need to look into alternate ways of providing contact information such as an event email address." For current events, fliers are being posted as provided in an image format, and phone numbers are not repeated in the event page text. May want to consider further redaction of phone numbers from flier images. Will be seeking additional feedback from fellowship. (Contact forms can be utilized in lieu of showing email addresses or phone numbers on event pages.)

• Other Committee/Servant Requests:

- Literature-Would like to have posts highlighting individual pamphlets. Site is ready for this, awaiting content from chair.
- Archives-Would like to offer Archives library online. T&C Committee will be doing research on best
 way to host/organize files and share on website page(s), as well as ideal file types. Will confer with
 archives servants, particularly those who have recently attended national workshop; as well as review
 existing suggestions in the Technology in AA (TIAA) forum. Omaha Intergroup has a near-parallel
 project underway, so we are collaborating on this research.
- Secretary/Report & Charter--Could reports be uploaded to a shared folder that could feed directly into
 the combined newsletter document (using macros or other process)? Tech Team has had preliminary
 discussion. Folder upload is possible. Additional suggestion is to have a preferred file type that will
 "play nice" over different operating systems and softwares: Rich Text Format (rtf) initially
 recommended. More research to continue.
- Registrar-Registrar asked if we could add checkbox to new group and group change forms, that will send notification copy the web servant for Meeting List updates ONLY IF the box is checked. This is possible and easy to set up. Registrar is reviewing Tech Team response.
- Reunion Working with Reunion co-chair and Treasurer to setup online registration form. Gravity
 Forms plug-in offers a "PayPal Checkout Template" that has been incredibly easy to set up and will
 work with the existing Area PayPal account. Online registration will be open shortly. Visit
 area41.org/reunion for online registration and final schedule!
- Are we missing anything here? Please remind the chair if you have an existing request with the committee.

Newsletter and Website

In November, on the ongoing topic of the newsletter and how to address contact info in the web version: The committee questioned if this would warrant additional area feedback by way of an agenda item? We discussed how this supports communication and process? The intention is to reduce information that wouldn't need to be published, which could be harvested and used improperly by spammers.

One goal of the website is to put information on the site in a way that is safe while also communicating what's important.

Consensus was to re-ask Report and Charter to have the area41.org email listed in the directory with personal addresses as secondary (and perhaps optional).

One member encouraged the committee to move agenda items to the fellowship for feedback, and reminded us that the fellowship needs to see the VALUE in a solution for it to be maintained.

In December, the committee began to brainstorm possible agenda items:

Possible agenda item one: To propose email and web links to accompany all report headings and perhaps encourage all contact info (i.e., phone numbers and email addresses) be excluded from the report body.

- The unscrubbed newsletter could include the area41.org email address and short link to the applicable website
 page for each report heading.
 - Would it be worth also asking to have the contact directory page on its own physical page of the back of the printed newsletters, so that it could be easily torn off if needed to create a scrubbed version?
- For the scrubbed newsletter: Suggest to only show a short link to the respective website page with contact form and not list any email addresses at all?
- For the web newsletter: Consider redacting ALL phone numbers and email addresses. Link to website pages with contact forms only.
 - Could scrubbed version already be this way, that the scrubbed and web versions could be the same? This would require people to contact servants through the website because email addresses wouldn't be published in the web newsletter. Is this a barrier?

Possible agenda item two:

Permission to add web links for feedback forms or other website resources, developed after assembly in response to reports and before the newsletter is finalized.

Possible agenda item three:

To have area41.org email listed first in directory for all service positions and committees with personal email address column as secondary (and perhaps optional).

In January, the committee discussed if it might be possible for the unscrubbed newsletter to mimic the private post content on the website and for the scrubbed newsletter to be consistent with public post content?

Several members continue to ask if the newsletter could contain excerpts with full reports available through the website? The committee is reminded that we have one member who does not have a computer or email address who relies on their paper newsletter from their DCM, and how do we take into account providing private post content to members such as this?

Anonymity vs. Confidentiality

At January meeting, the Delegate visited the committee with three topics submitted for our discussion:

- How to host upcoming Delegate GSC items (confidential information)? Drive folder in Google Workspace with controlled access may be best. Could also add link to this on Member Services (password protected) page.
- How to submit content for Delegate's Corner? Currently, all website content submissions from servants, committees, and districts can be emailed to <u>tech@area41.org</u>. In time, we will likely establish WordPress "Contributor" logins for requesting servants.
- Delegate elaborated slightly on committee's newsletter conversation. Reminded us of other committees' right of decision, and asked if we were outside of our scope?
 - The committee believes that the ongoing newsletter conversation does fall within our scope as it relates to the website guidelines: The website guidelines list the newsletter being outside of the protected area, but then also has guidelines for anonymity protection. With Communications now in our name, there will be an increased need to collaborate with the other committees, such as Agenda and Report & Charter, to refine our process to make sure that both committee scopes complement each other and work together.
- Additionally, there was some content in the delegate's report from October that had not been intended for
 public online audience. The delegate refrained from making a specific suggestion, but invited our committee
 to discuss possible ways to address this. Lengthy discussion ensued.
 - The committee eventually realized there are two different issues at play: anonymity versus
 confidentiality. The website posts mirrored the content from the scrubbed newsletter, which is
 anonymity protected. It appears there might be some content, particularly in the delegate's report,
 which still requires additional confidentiality.
 - The October report post has been hidden, and the web servants are working with this officer to identify what content ought to be redacted on the web version of the newsletter.
 - The committee had quite a lot of discussion on public versus private posts and how we can address having the version of reports and posts that are publicly available for anyone in our fellowship to find, especially as it relates to communication and participation; but that there might be some additional reporting that would be beneficial to keep confidential and how could we handle this using subscriptions through the website?
 - The committee chair is working with the delegate to determine which content is appropriate for the public facing site, and our upcoming conversations regarding subscriptions and the ability to have members subscribe to some protected content in addition to the public content will help us achieve this
 - Please stay tuned for forthcoming reports, and our showcase in April where we will seek additional feedback from you on subscriptions.

Committee Showcase at April 2025 Assembly

The committee brainstormed in December with the intent to finalize in February. What are broad topics for our table?

- Big Item 1: Website-Seek feedback from fellowship regarding current need and desires for email subscriptions. Also focus on content desired and how to submit: reports, minutes, highlights, meetings, and events.
- Big Item 2: Hybrid assembly logistics.
- Items like guidelines not likely to draw people's interest in the committee work.

Items Still In Committee

- 2022-10-09 014 re. Email Subscription Service through Website, tabled. Committee has decided to pause taking action on this until July 2025, and will seek feedback from fellowship during committee showcase at April 2025 assembly.
- 2023-04-15 08b (Tech confer with Finance): Create guidelines and answer Traditions questions for future Area 41 purchases of electronic equipment. Tabled pending the Area vote on the hybrid assembly item (January 2025). Committee will address this item in advance of proposing additional equipment for Area purchase, prior to the first year of hybrid assemblies ending.

Item Moved Out of Committee

The committee met for two hours on Saturday, January 18, to rework the audio-visual servant agenda item that was recommitted at assembly.

After much discussion on the scope, the committee presumes that the full list of tasks we discussed would fall on more than one person. While we include "may assist" with slide sharing, and some other hybrid technology, the audio-visual servant is primarily intended to get the physical equipment to the assemblies and ensure that it is set up and ready to use. There will be additional volunteers to help make the hybrid assembly happen. Screen sharing could happen by a Zoom operator who is logged on remotely.

It was questioned whether we were getting into "special services" territory and needed to consider outsourcing and/or compensation?

One of the current tech volunteers thought that the estimated current equipment sounded feasible to transport, but the committee understands that with future needs, especially if the area were to own its own sound equipment (as opposed to relying on a hotel sound system), we may need to revisit either equipment rental or paying a stipend.

The reworded item is presented to the fellowship for a vote as follows:

Agenda 2024-04-06 002 Technology & Communications (with consultation of Report & Charter):

Dissolve the Taper service position and create a new Audio-Visual service position in its place. Because this position requires special skills and continuity, it will remain a six-year appointment. Area Chairperson to appoint. The service position would be overseen by the Technology and Communications Committee.

Scope:

- Ensure proper storage and adequate security of applicable equipment, and timely delivery and setup for Area assemblies.
- Manage the microphones/sound systems.
- Ensure that Area assemblies are audio-recorded, and that recordings are provided to the Chairperson and Secretary, and to the Archives.
- Provide audio recording of other Area functions as requested by Chairperson, subject to the availability of the Audio-Visual servant.
- · Make sure the projectors are working.
- Assist with slide sharing, logistics and/or hosting for virtual or hybrid assemblies.

Amend budget to move Taper position lodging, mileage, and "Area Taping" expense lines from Secretary to Technology and Communications Committee, and rename appropriately. Update lodging to be for two nights per assembly, to allow servant to arrive on Friday with equipment.

Amend the Area 41 Service Handbook to appropriately reflect these changes, and sunset any past actions in conflict.

Background:

As the area becomes more and more modernized, the need for a person to manage several different pieces of technology instead of just recording assemblies has become apparent. This position and its proposed scope supports our primary purpose in Tradition Five—to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers—and the "Right of Participation" as described in Concept IV. At the request of the Area, and in support of Concepts X and XI, the voting item has been reworded as shown above.

The committee's intent regarding "proper storage and adequate security of applicable equipment" is to encourage equipment not be left in a common area or vehicle, for instance; but rather be kept in a personal space that is both locked and protected from the elements (such as home or garage).

Area 41 Service Handbook references to amend include: update "Taper" to "Audio-Visual" in Paragraphs II.C.2, III.C.2.c.iii, IV.B, and IV.B.3; and remove "Taper" reference from Report and Charter Committee scope in Paragraph V.B.9.b.

Please feel free to contact me at tech@area41.org or 402.601.1327.

In service, Sarah R., Committee Chair

Ad hoc FUNction:

As always, the ad hoc committee is so appreciative to the Area for all of your participation this weekend, and to the Agenda committee for continually giving us workshop time so that we can interact with the Area. The ad hoc is moving 2022-04-02 005 (a1) & 2022-04-02 005 (a2) out for vote in April! Yes, you heard that correctly! As always, you can contact us at: area41nebraska@gmail.com. 2022-04-02 005 (cc) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Committee Comments The Area 41 FUNction ad hoc committee has spent much time and research, and could continue to do much more ad infinitum. We do not claim that these recommendations are the best, as there are many great options. We do, however, agree that these recommendations are highly likely to be better, that change is necessary, and that we are honoring what we have been asked to do: "2022-04-02 005 Agenda Item Agenda: Review current practices and recommend changes, if necessary, to improve how Area 41 functions in order to best serve groups and individuals in the Area.

We are taking ourselves too seriously. We spend too much time arguing semantics, rules, and wordsmithing. Let's spend more time studying the concepts of AA, training future leaders, and enjoying ourselves, rather than spending too much time arguing about business.

We believe that, as an Area, we need to change ourselves to be of maximum service to those around us. Many things that we do use up time that could be better used elsewhere. We have outlasted our previous structure & it is time for change. According to Concept 9, "If an idea looks like a good bet, we try it on — experimentally when that is possible." Some of these changes will need adjustments. As we all know, growing pains never really stop, but our current situation with hotel costs are becoming unsupportable, and we as a fellowship don't go out west together, and our newsletter cannot technically be done early enough, and we're missing a lot of groups voices at Area, and our stuff is out of date, and sometimes we have a lot of long boring stuff, which don't get us wrong, sometimes is necessary, but a lot of it might not be

Items in Committee:

- 2022-04-02 005 (a3) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: For a trial run of 3 rotations, pause the 4-Corners workshops and its requisite service position at Area 41, if the agenda item voting to hold one day service assemblies in a separate city than the Area 41 Business Meeting passes. The passing of this agenda item shall suspend: April 1990 Motion for the Area to sponsor having a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 one day workshops per year by any Area Committee that is asked for the four corners of the State utilizing Area funds.
- 2022-04-02 005 (b) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Replace GSR & DCM Workshops with Topic Workshop(s). The passing of this item will repeal the GSR Workshop and alternate GSR Workshop positions.
- 2022-04-02 005 (c) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: The Area Chair is to appoint committee chair and service positions from a pool of interested candidates, nominations, and anyone else that the Area Chair may identify as a suitable candidate. The final slate of candidates to be approved by the Area by a 2/3 vote.
- 2022-04-02 005 (d) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Area 41 should invite a speaker once per year from another Area, at the purview of the Area Chair.
- 2022-04-02 005 (e) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: Keeping in mind the always existing right of decision of the area chair and agenda committee, and that sometimes special circumstances arise, the fellowship would like it known that they appreciate efforts to attempt business meetings on Saturdays.
- 2022-04-02 005 (f) Agenda Item FUNction Ad Hoc: A Resolution, We, the Area Assembly of 2024-2025, acknowledge that due to the existence of an ad hoc committee and some of the decisions of the current Area Chair, there have been adjustments to the agenda and workshops, unlike what we've seen, and it has provided the ad hoc committee some valuable insights. We affirm any future area chair's right of decision, but we also wish to formally document our experiences for the record. Our experience with extended lunch and dinner breaks has been overwhelmingly positive. With these longer breaks, we have found that attendance at post-dinner workshops has significantly improved—rising from approximately 25%-50% to near full participation. Having topics at post dinner sharing sessions may have helped

too, rather than just open sharing sessions. Overall, we have observed reduced arguments, decreased stress, and an increase in unity and restfulness. These changes have contributed to a more generally positive outlook for our assembly. While it is common for chairs and agenda committees to consider adjusting meal and break times, our experience suggests that the benefits of extended breaks are substantial. The relaxation and unhurried pace of meals have had a trickle-down effect, fostering greater unity and reducing unnecessary conflicts. This has led to increased engagement and attendance. Regarding workshops, we prefer them to be shorter and more focused, with multiple presenters, and with opportunities for sharing sessions. We request that future topics be relevant and beneficial to our service positions. Thank you. Yours In Service, FUNction Ad Hoc Committee

SERVICE POSITION REPORTS:

Archivist:

Hello Area 41, I am sorry that I was not able to attend the January assembly. I was planning to come to see the Archives Workshop but I was unaware that the workshop would be held as late in the day as it was. Being unable to fund myself for an overnight stay I decided against attending. It is my fault for not reading the digital newsletter. I kept waiting on the hard copy which is easier for me to read. But it didn't come so I only looked at the schedule at the last minute on Friday night. By that time, it would have taken several steps to achieve funding and I didn't have arrangements for my dogs over night. I look forward to hearing the recording and I am really bummed that I missed it. I had really been looking forward to it. At our last Area Archives committee meeting we talked about defining a job description for both the Archives Chair person and the Archivist. I have come up with some ideas for this but feel that it should be discussed further in committee. One of the things that I wish to address in the Archivist section is the care and location of the Archives laptop. Once these issues are discussed in the committee we will need to create an agenda item to change the Area Service Manual. Work continues on the sorting and organization of district material. I am more than half way through the districts and will be glad to finally complete this chore this year. Ive also been looking through things in the repository that I haven't even seen before. I found some tri fold boards that an earlier archivist put together showing the growth of AA through the years through a display of group history forms. These were very helpful in my most recent quest. My search for the first AA group in Nebraska has become a focus for me. We know certain things about certain groups, but is this the whole picture? It is commonly believed that AA began in February 1943 in Omaha. The next meeting I have found is North Platte which began in Feb/Mar1944. After that was July 1945 in Pender. These are the 3 earliest groups that I have found. But there are rumors that there may have been earlier. I ask that you all have a look within your districts and let me know when and where your first meetings were. Please fill out new District History Forms and Group History Forms to help me with this project. Also, any documentation that you can find regarding early groups or correspondence in your district would be amazing.

On December 29 th Nick and I each gave a talk at the District 4 meeting in Fremont. I feel that it was informative for everyone involved and hope that it inspired people to step outside of their comfort zones and see what the district as a whole is doing. It was good to see old friends who I used to serve with when I lived in District 4 and it is always great to hear Nick do his thing. I attended the Intergroup Archives committee as I usually do. We discussed moving items around on the central office walls to leave space that could be dedicated to National AA memorabilia. Most of the pictures and memorabilia that presently hangs there is geared towards local Omaha AA. I suggested that Area 41 needs represented too. They agreed to give us some space as well. My goal is to at least make up a nice large map of the Area that indicates where the districts and groups are located. If anybody from the Omaha Area would like to help me with this project I would be eternally grateful. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this. I really feel it would be best if this were a group project.

That's all for now. See you in the fall. Colleen P. -Area 41 Archivist

First Timer Orientation:

First Timer Orientation opened with 17 members. Our Delegate, Area Chair, and GSR Workshop Chair were all on hand to assist. We said our hellos; went through the "orientation sheet" & used the qr code to access it via the website area41.org; discussed the logistics of the weekend; talked about why we are here; and answered questions. For some excellent reading, check out: "Why We Need A Conference" and "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need." I appreciate being asked to serve. Thanks, Erika

GSR Workshop:

Greetings Area 41! We had a great turnout yesterday afternoon with 60 people in attendance, several of whom were at Area for the first time.

Our main topic of discussion was service sponsorship and ways we as individuals and group members can contribute to support and encourage those who will be filling the roles we and others now hold in AA Service. We heard from current service sponsors and sponsees about the value of studying AA service literature together the way we would study the Big

Book and Twelve and Twelve and that there are many experienced trusted servants in our Area who can be consulted about service issues or questions.

GSRs offered experience from their groups with formats and practices that are making participation in service at all levels more accessible to members—especially those newer to service—and we focused on how the spirit of rotation can draw new servants into the places we vacate as we rotate into other service positions or out of formal service for a season at the ends of our terms. We heard about small groups in smaller communities where there often is no one currently able to rotate into vacant positions. We were reminded of Tradition 4 and that each group has autonomy to choose what works in its circumstances.

We have not yet selected a main topic for the next GSR workshop in April and are always interested in hearing from GSRs about topics or questions they would like discussed at future workshops. We look forward to the GSRs sharing their experience, strength and hope at the next workshop in April.

In everything, I have been ably assisted by McKenna K., our alternate GSR Workshop Chair, for whom I am very grateful. McKenna and I are privileged to serve our Area 41 GSRs through the workshop and look forward to meeting again with the GSRs at the next Area Assembly. Please feel free to contact either of us between assemblies with any questions or suggestions for future workshop topics.

Yours in service, Rebecca T., GSR Workshop Chair

Newsletter:

Good morning Area 41, my name is Brock, an alcoholic and I am your newsletter chair. I received everything I needed to make the newsletter on October 25th, and put together the first draft by October 30th. Throughout the next two weeks, I received several updates and other information that needed added, which prolonged the process. On November 21st, I submitted the newsletters to the printing company. On December 3rd, I was able to pick up the newsletters, which was the day I got back from visiting my brother. I ordered 415 English and 20 Spanish, totaling 765.96. I picked up the newsletters the next day, had them all in their mail bubblers by December 6th and I never made it to the post office.

I'm pretty good at talking my way out of things, so I am just going to try and be honest. I had staffing issues at work over the next month, requiring me to work day and overnight shifts. I had a family emergency which is just starting and will continue on for the next several years, if I am lucky. And everytime I had free time to go to the post office, I was either mentally exhausted or frustrated, full of fear essentially, and I'd find excuses not to go. I reclused from meetings during this time, telling myself I can't go to meetings and share a message of hope if I don't have any hope.

During our Report and Charter meeting, I was asked if I wanted to continue serving Area 41. There are several things about this position I really enjoy, and other things I tolerate. Myself and the Report and Charter committee believe that I can continue in this role with a little bit more assistance. The packing and shipping process of this role is where I have struggled the most, and the committee has agreed to "get in the car" and help out. I can't express enough how much it means to experience forgiveness and grace when one does not feel they deserve it. Let me know how I can be more helpful, yours in service, Brock H.

Registrar:

Greetings Area 41,

I am Zach, an alcoholic and your Registrar. I continue to work on improving the accuracy of the data in Fellowship Connection for Area 41. I am sorry to report that there are more "Unknown" groups now then when I started this rotation. One cause of this is position end dates. I receive an email from GSO when a person's term is about to expire. From there, I email that person and their DCM. I am often not receiving a response. Then, the term expires. Then, the group automatically moves into "Unknown" status. I could use your help in correcting this. Please respond even if it is, "I do not know what this is." I am here to help. An "Unknown Group" is a group that does not have a registered GSR or Mail Contact, and is not listed as "Inactive". Along with responding to these emails, please help the next trusted servant with registering. I have reached out to several DCM's regarding reviewing your District's information. Thank you to those that answered and responded! In the coming months, I will continue to reach out until I have contacted every DCM. With some assistance (thank you Nick and Dan!), I have completed packets for every District. There are 3 pieces of information in these. "Unknown" groups, "Active" groups and Service Positions. DCM's, please review these to check for accuracy, and most importantly report back to me with your results! I know this can be a lot of work, and I thank you for your efforts. Fun fact: there are several members listed that have a start date of 1977 for their position. While it is possible they are still serving that group, I doubt it.

As a reminder, DCM's have access to Fellowship Connection. This is a tool available for you to use. If you cannot login or are not sure how to use it, please contact me. I am here to help assist you with this! I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to do so!!! The digital forms on the Area 41 website are working great. Please use this resource (feedback is welcome). I will still accept paper forms as well. I want your information. The how is not as important as getting it to me.

As a reminder, I have also been given an Area 41 email address to use. It is: registrar@area41.org Please start using this email to correspond with me. I will continue to check my personal email and respond as needed. I am also available via text or phone call. My information is in the back of the newsletter.

There is some ongoing confusion as to where to send your information. I will be working on a solution with the Tech Committee and Webmaster. In the meantime, please note any information or changes that need to end up on the meeting Guide app in your communications with me. Thank you to all who have provided information. Your efforts are not only appreciated but critical to keeping our information up to date to help serve the still suffering alcoholic. As always, I am available to help. Please reach out to me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in service, Zach I. Area 41 Registrar

Workshop:

Hello Trusted Servants,

Welcome to the new 4Corners Workshop chair. It has been a great experience working with districts to bring Area41 committee officers to the four corners of the state, each quarter. More to come as more workshops are done in districts to solve problems together with 4Corners Workshops. Please remember to prioritize communication of AA events and workshops with others and use the updated website to post information. We lead by example. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Service is a service, v4 Corner Workshop Chair 2024

Forum Report:

The 2025 West Central Regional Forum is being hosted by Area 41 September 19-21, 2025 in Omaha! The Forum will be at the Hilton Omaha in downtown Omaha. I have asked Jenny R., from Omaha to chair the local volunteer committee. Stay tuned for more information on how to book rooms at the Forum and for service opportunities. Registration is free! The Regional Forum is a great opportunity to meet and hear from Delegates from the region, staff from the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine, and board members from the General Service, A.A.W.S, and the A.A. Grapevine Boards. Mark your calendars! In love and service, Nick K., Area 41 Delegate

DCM REPORTS:

District 1:

Greetings area 41, we had 10 members present at our last meeting. We have been averaging between 8 and 12 people at out meetings which is an improvement from past years. we recently added a technology position at our last meeting. we wanted representation at the technology committee so we were informed as to what they are working on and to also help in any way they should need. We are planning a workshop for the middle of March.

Yours in service, Jason

District 2:

Hey Area, This is District 2 and we are doing okay. We now have a workshop and CPC/PI Chair. They are both doing very well. We are looking for a newsletter/technology, Intergroup, grapevine and Bridging the Gap. Our new workshop chair already has an event started and it will be March 22, 2025 9 to noon at Prairie Lane Church in Omaha, NE. We are also working with the intergroup grapevine to get a workshop going with them. We will have a few new GSR's starting this year. My alternate DCM and I will try to get to more meetings to get more GSR to the area. I am hoping for the best turn out in October for our votes to be heard.

District 3:

Greetings from District 3. The last few months have been slow for me due to an illness and injury. It's a new year. I look forward to visiting all the groups in the district. Recently, I was asked to attend one of the group's business meetings to talk about District and Area service for an election. That group's GSR, Craig passed in October a couple of weeks after the Area business meeting. That group has a new GSR here today.

District 4:

Greetings Area 41 My name is Bob and I am DCM for district 4.

All the meetings in my district have been showing steady attendance. Quite a few of them however, do not have representation at the district level I am currently working on a solution to the issue, I was thinking if we had a virtual district meeting it might get more voting members to attend. As it stands now we have too few voting members to make any kind of informed decisions at our district meetings.

We have a lot of open positions to fill at the district level my goal is to find enough people to stand for service positions at our October elections. Our next district meeting is March 23rd. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Also thank you to Nick and Colleen for doing presentations at our last district meeting. They were ver informative.Bob F.

District 5: No Report District 6: No Report

District 7:

My name is CHerri DCM for district 7. District 7 has a lot of meetings to attend with most 10-30 members. Many newcomers are interested in recovery. Encouraging meetings and service.

Our newest meeting there is a solution in stanton at Grandview community meets every Thursday night at 7pm and going strong with -14 attending. McCook has 2 meetings a day at 709 west 2nd first Wednesdays noon meeting is a potluck. most meetings are 6-15 food always brings in some attendance. Second Saturday of months are speaker potlucks. Always a hit. Sometimes brining up to 35 members for great fun food and fellowship. First Fridays night we read and discuss the step of the month. And every Saturday night we are doing Joe and Charlie tapes. Our Christmas party and pot luck helped Laura T celebrate 15 years, Way to go Laura! Saturday morning at 10 our Christmas party featured a cookie exchange and games. Much fun was had for all. We also sponsored a family Thanksgiving and Christmas in our community. Sunday Morning at 10:30 generally for speaker meetings. If you would like to be a speaker for us please contact Eddie P or me and we will set it up. Gothenburg Thirsty Thursdays celebrated the 2nd new year extravaganza potluck with 37 in attendance, and speakers Donovan and Chloe. Other birthday Robbie 8, Danielle and Sam 1 year, Congrats! Other meetings in the meetingguide app are correct but not interested in getting GSR to represent at the area level. Upcoming even for District 7 is March 29th at 1100-330 Workshop about CPCPI flyers are available on the back table on the website. Our last district meeting was hosted by Gothenburg Thank you! We had 12 in attendance. Next district meeting will be in McCook March 9th at 2:00 Thank you for letting me be of service. Please come to see us, Cheri District 7

District 8:

Greetings Nebraska and happy 2025 all!

The 80th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in North Platte was a big success with attendance nearing 150 people. We want to thank both of the speakers we had from Gothenburg and Omaha for their service. We also had an alcathon for New Years Eve with attendance around 65 people and 14 people joining for breakfast the next morning on New Years Day. I'm looking forward to attending the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Casper, Wyoming. See you all there! Yours in Service, Jaiden W.

District 9:

Hello Area 41, we are going through some reorganization in district 9. We lost 2 groups from the district who decided to go to Area76 in Wyoming. That took our DCM, Alternate DCM and 2 GSRs! We have filled the DCM and Alternate DCM positions and are working to fill other service positions. District 9 is alive and well, thanks to all who have supported us through this. The Panhandle Jamboree is going to be April 11th through the 13th this year, would be great to see some of you there! Yours in service, Rex S. District 9 DCM

District 10: No Report **District 11:** No Report

District 12:

Greetings Area 41, Happy New Year from District 12. Attendance at our meetings is good. We are putting the finishing touches on being ready for the 4 corners workshop in 2 weeks. I attended the New Years eve party that the Broken Bow Downtowners group put on. Great food and fellowship.

Yours in service, Harlan A. Dcm Dist. 12

District 13: No report District 14: No report District 15: No Report

District 16:

Hello AREA 41, Brian Schwager Alcoholic DCM For District 16 Having To Do With Work And Not Making Enough Time For Myself To Be Of Good Service To District 16 Of Area 41 I Have Only This To Report At This Time.

In Service. BRIAN S.

District 18:

Greetings Nebraska! Mike B, DCM for District 18, in NW Omaha and Elkhorn.

District 18 has filled the PCP/PI position and now has a full complement of trusted servants. We hosted an ice cream social where the Area 41 delegate presented his report and answered questions. 40-50 members were in attendance. We were able to store our extra ice cream until the Alcathon, so if you enjoyed ice cream there, you're welcome.

District 18 meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at 1:00 pm at Lord of Love Lutheran Church, 104th and Fort, Omaha, NE. All are welcome to attend. The next event we're hosting is our family friendly Spring Picnic at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park in Elkhorn, on May 17th. Fried chicken and hotdogs provided, fun and games for all!

Yours in fellowship, Mike B

District 19:

Greetings Area 41, My name is Alex and I am an alcoholic. Our District is doing well but falling to the issue of filling positions for our district. We are going to work to expand the interest and see where we can help the groups Our next District meeting is January 14th at 7pm. We are located at Hanscom Park United Methodist Church at 4444 Frances St. Omaha, NE, 68105 in the basement.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Alex P. DCM District 19

District 20:

Distinct 20 is looking forward to the 52nd annual Bellevue anniversary. It will be held at Bellevue East High School on Saturday January 25th starting with coffee at 5:30.

Three meetings have had a change of venue. The groups have done a nice job of getting the new meeting places and getting them updated on the website and in the where and when.

The district did get more contributions than was expected, and we were able to come in under our expected budget. Lastly we were able to fill our CPC/PI committee spot but we still have three open positions which are bridging the gap, literature and hospitality. Yours in Service, Morrie

District 21:

Greetings, Area 41! District 21 continues to see solid attendance at our monthly business meeting. Our numbers have been down lately, and we will try some of the suggestions shared in the DCM committee meeting to increase attendance. I want to thank altérnate DCM Rebecca T. for chairing November's meeting while I recovered from surgery. She has also been attending the Technology committee's meetings on behalf of the district and helped ro get the new website up and running. Our December meeting was cancelled due to space conflicts with our usual location.

We would like to host a workshop, and we're discussing several topics. Sponsorship is one suggestion, but we are exploring others. Hoping to co-host this with District 22.

District 22:

Greetings area 41! Been a quiet few months. We have a new group getting involved in the service structure and has been sending their newly elected gsr to districts. One of our groups is virtual but very involved in the service structure. The GSR flew here all the way from California to be here this weekend for area! District 22 is needing a treasurer and Intergroup rep as both needed to step down this last month. We continue to meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at st Matthew's on 24th and Sewell in Lincoln. Yours in service. McKenna

District 23:

Greetings Area 41 from District 23. District 23 has been busy since last reported with service and fellowship activities. We sponsored a "Free" Mini Workshop and Luncheon on December 8, that was very well attended.

We held our 35th annual Feast Fling and Fellowship event November 9th featuring a key note speaker and fellowship activities including a home style dinner. There were approximately 230 participants, including approximately 75 folks from area treatment centers and halfway houses. Another mini workshop is planned for February 9 as detailed in our website listing. D-23 monthly meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each Month. If you wish to learn more about upcoming events, Please visit our web site at <a href="https://doi.org/d23ne.or

Thank you and In Service, Craig J - DCM Dist 23

District 24:

Greetings Area 41, I'm Jim and alcoholic and the DCM for district 24. I will be traveling to the groups shortly and Clark G. conducted the meeting I wasnt present. The mail topic was a discussion on the workshops. There hasn't been a date set but it's moving forward. It was kind of quiet for the holidays in the district but I'll travel around and get things going for 2025.

Yours in Service, Jim S. for district 24

District 25: No Report

District 26:

Greetings Area 41, District 26 is alive and well. We held our quarterly business meeting on on Dec 12 with six members present. We discussed finances, possible changes for next years picnic and upcoming area voting items. Although I was not able to make my rounds to several of the meetings this quarter due to holidays and such, I have heard they are doing well. It sounds like the new meeting in York is a step study meeting out of the 12x12 and I'm looking forward to getting to it in the near future. The Aurora Tues night group held its annual New Year's Eve pot luck/speaker meeting and was well attended. I would like to give a thanks to our Alt DCM for taking my place at this January assembly on very short notice. Looking forward to the next assembly. Yours in service, Jay

District 28: No Report District 29: No Report

District 30:

Greetings Area 41, Our meeting is doing really well we have 25 to 35 at the Ambry club there has been good attendance. We are having a lot of new people coming in. The meeting over the hill gang is doing well, there are 8-12 people. We had the thanksgiving dinner in November 21st we had 5 turkeys eveyone helped out also we had two hams. We had great attendance 100 people. There was so much food to do with, we are planning to have a St. Patties gathereing March 15 Saturday. We are still working out the details for district 30 flyers we will get them to you. Thank you for everything we get to do Area 41.

Love and Service, Jeff DCM30

District 31: No Report

District 32:

Hello Area 41. We at District 32 have been doing ok. Meeting attendance is down. We had our Christmas party in December with ababout 40 in attendance. We are having a soup supper on February 21. We gave some new books to jail

for their use. Yours in service Terry K District 32

2024 Area 41 Inventory Report: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Summary Strengths

- Carrying the Message: Committees like CPC/PI, Corrections, Hotline, and Bridging the Gap provide strong support for the still-suffering alcoholic. The updated website and 24/7 hotline enhance accessibility and effectiveness.
- Service Opportunities: Area 41 offers a variety of service positions and workshops, including Four Corners workshops and the Area Service Handbook, fostering engagement and personal growth.
- Delegate Communication: The delegate effectively communicates General Service Conference (GSC) updates and encourages participation across districts.
- Unity Efforts: Area workshops and discussions on traditions and concepts promote collaboration and inclusivity.
- Technological Advances: New website increases accessibility.

Weaknesses

- **Financial Misalignment**: Some expenses, such as newsletters and assemblies, may not align optimally with the Area's primary purpose. Resources for smaller or struggling groups are insufficient.
- Participation Challenges: Younger members and those in rural areas face barriers like travel and time commitments, leading to reduced participation in assemblies and service roles.
- Communication Gaps: Delays in newsletters and unclear roles of DCMs and GSRs hinder effective information sharing.
- Unity Barriers: A divide between eastern and western districts (e.g., Lincoln/Omaha vs. rural areas) and
 insufficient outreach to underrepresented groups, such as the Hispanic community.

Opportunities

- Optimizing Assemblies: Reduce the number of assemblies or adopt hybrid formats to lower costs and increase
 accessibility.
- Enhanced Digital Engagement: Use online surveys, Zoom town halls, and the website to gather group input and
 encourage participation outside assemblies.
- Service Sponsorship: Foster mentorship through workshops and promotion of service sponsorship resources.
- **Financial Support**: Develop flexible funding to help struggling groups with literature and other needs while ensuring alignment with the Area's purpose.
- Inclusive Outreach: Focus on bridging the east-west divide and engaging underrepresented communities to strengthen unity.
- Technological Advances: Hybrid meeting options could increase accessibility, especially for geographically distant members.

Summary

Area 41 demonstrates significant strengths in carrying the message, offering service opportunities, and leveraging technology to enhance accessibility. However, financial priorities, participation barriers, and communication gaps present challenges. By optimizing assemblies, expanding digital engagement, fostering service sponsorship, and promoting inclusivity, Area 41 can better serve its mission and uphold the three legacies of Unity, Service, and Recovery. A focus on these opportunities will ensure that Area resources are used effectively to reach the still-suffering alcoholic and strengthen AA's service structure. For more information or to provide feedback, please visit area41.org or contact your DCM or GSR.

2025 ::: WEST CENTRAL ::: Regional Forum

19-21 s

September 2025

Hilton Omaha | 1001 Cass St Omaha, NE 68102



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The 66th Annual Area 41 Reunion "Working Together, Increasing Trust"

June 6-8, 2025 (Hybrid: In Person and Online)

Quality Inn and Conference Center I-80 Grand Island | 7838 S Hwy 281, Bldg A, Grand Island, NE 68803 (308) 384-7770 | Be sure to mention Area 41 to get the discounted rate.

Hosted by District 3 and 29

Friday, June 6	Saturday, June 7
5 PM: Registration Opens	3 PM: Delegate's Report, Nick K., Omaha NE
Meet and Greet Reunion Committee	5 PM: Supper Break: On your own/Hospitality Rooms Open
7:30 PM: AA speaker Mark B., Bellevue NE	7 PM: AFG Speaker Rucha C., Omaha NE
9 PM: Ice Cream Social	8 PM: AA Speaker Steve M., Area 76 Delegate WY
Saturday, June 7	9 PM: Event TBD
7 AM: Early Bird AA Mtg hosted by District 3	10 PM: Late Night AA meeting District 29
8 AM: Registration Opens	Sunday, June 8
8 AM: Registration Opens 8:30 AM: Ask it Basket Charlie H	Sunday, June 8 7 AM: Early Bird AA Mtg District
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8:30 AM: Ask it Basket Charlie H	7 AM: Early Bird AA Mtg District
8:30 AM: Ask it Basket Charlie H 9:30 AM: AA Speaker Sasha O. Lincoln NE	7 AM: Early Bird AA Mtg District 8 AM: Registration Opens
8:30 AM: Ask it Basket Charlie H 9:30 AM: AA Speaker Sasha O. Lincoln NE 10:30 AM: AA Speaker Connie K., Lincoln NE	7 AM: Early Bird AA Mtg District 8 AM: Registration Opens 9 AM: AA speaker

REGISTRATION DETAILS Name for Badge	City, State	AA or AFG (circle one)	Attending Virtually?	Email to Receive Virtual Meeting Details
		AA AFG		

Early Registration: \$25 per Person (through June 1)
Registration after June 1: \$30 (on-site registration cash only)
Only members of AA pay registration. We are self-supporting.

Make Checks Payable to: Area 41 2025 Reunion Committee Mail to: PO Box 264, Eagle, NE 68347 Visit <u>area41.org/reunion</u> (or use QR code at right) for Online Registration and final schedule.



Rev. 01/24/25

Seventh Tradition

General Service Office

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The Responsibility Statement: I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto, Canada