

Area 45 Fall Assembly Minutes 2021

The Fall assembly was held Virtually on November 21,2021 in New Jersey.

GSR/DSM orientation was held at 8:45 AM.

10:00 AM. PANEL OFFER ELECTION

Chaired by Immediate Past Delegate Rose S.

Delegate: Ken T

Alternate Delegate: Wendy M

Chair: Joe E

Treasurer: Phil K

Secretary: Scott P

Registrar: George H

Assembly Meeting

The assembly meeting began at 12:45 AM and was opened with the serenity prayer.

[Welcome from the Area Chair](#)

[Intergroup Chair Reports:](#)

Cape Atlantic Intergroup – no report

Central Jersey Intergroup – no report

South Jersey Intergroup – no report

[DCM and Section Leader Reports:](#)

Section I Leader – Good morning. I'd like to thank everyone who helped today's Assembly to happen. Since the Summer Assembly Districts have been involved with the Unity Picnic in September and Movie Night in October. Both were great events and enjoyed by participants!

As the end of 2021 approaches our efforts continue. We have 2 annual events yet to come. District 24 is getting ready for a New Year's Eve Alcathon and District 22-23 is preparing for New Year's Day Alcathon. The flyers will be distributed shortly.

I am delighted to let you know we have someone who is willing to be the District 4 DCM. We are in the process of calling a meeting and reenergizing the process. Thank you for letting me serve.

District 03 – I'm michelle and a alcoholic and here is my last report as DCM. During our November district meeting we voted in new members. It is true what is said about your final days in a service position; just as you start feeling comfortable and at ease with your position the spirit of rotation has you move onto something else.

I am excited to announce our new District 3 members for the next two years; Pat as DCM, Linda B, Alternate DCM, Donna C as our Secretary, and Orange Sue as our possible Treasurer.

I want to thank the current members of district 3 for their patience and dedication over these past 2 years. We were successfully able to maintain our district along with hosting a few online workshops during a global pandemic. How about that?!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your DCM.

District 04 – VACANT

Districts 22 & 23 – Verbal Report

District 24 – Verbal Report

District 25 – The district is planning the following events (please note date, time, place, etc.):

- The Gratitude Banquet and Dance, typically held in November, was cancelled due to lack of communication from the venue. The committee will reconvene in 2022.

At the last District meeting, the following items were discussed and/or actions were taken:

- The annual Unity picnic was held on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 12-5pm at the Mercer County Park East Picnic Area in West Windsor NJ and was a great success! The District still has one expense to reimburse.
- District 25 elected a new Secretary, Treasurer, and Alt-DCM.

Our current bank account balance is: \$4,823.33

The District meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm
(day) (time)

Location: Meetings are held in person at our new meeting location: First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, 320 N Main St, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Tanya D

Section II Leader – no report

District 05 – VACANT

District 06 - VACANT

District 07 – VACANT

District 08 – Verbal Report

District 09 – VACANT

District 10 – no report

District 26 – Hi All, We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, at the Logan Presbyterian Church, Merchant St Audubon.

Our district has been quiet over the last 3 months, we have 6-8 GSR's who faithfully come to our monthly meetings and there is great support from District 10.

We've had good ideas for workshops, just trouble getting anything off the ground.

As my term comes to a close, I am grateful for the support I received during my 3 years as DCM. I have learned so much about the workings of AA as a whole.

I am so happy to welcome Lisa B as our new DCM, she'll do a terrific job for our GSR's and the Area. She has lots of ideas and I am looking forward to supporting her as she gets District 26 going again!

Thank you allowing me to serve,

Pam A

District 27 – no report

Co-Section Leaders III Leaders – no report

District 12 – no report

District 13 – VACANT

District 14 – Verbal Report

District 20 – VACANT

District 21 – VACANT

District 28 – VACANT

District 29 – VACANT

Section IV Leader – Good morning and thank you to everyone that put this assembly together and made this opportunity for service possible. As we continue to venture into 2021, Section IV continues to carry the message of hope and service throughout.

- Districts 15 is meeting in person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Tuckerton. They have an upcoming Dinner/Dance on Sunday December 5th and will have a keynote speaker, Kelly W, in which will be discussing service
- District 16/17 continues to meet virtually on the 1st Thursday of the month and is in the process of implementing a workshop around service work in the near future
- District 18 is meeting in person on the 1st Sunday of each month in Ocean City. They had a fantastic workshop that focused on the prayers of AA and had approximately 40 fellow members in attendance. Great work team!!

I continue to have the opportunity to be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the Chair the Adhoc Committee for Hybrid Meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AAs of Section 4 for the opportunity to serve you for the past 2 years. It was an experience I will never forget, and I will take those memories with me wherever I go. You could've done it without me, but I certainly could not have done it without you. I want to wish everyone on this call as well as Area 45 a happy holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with everyone in the future. Take care.

District 15 - Greetings Everyone! I am Kevin H. an alcoholic. I asked Anthony B. To read my report.

Few tickets are remaining for the District 15 speaker, dinner, dance at Holiday Inn Manahawkin NJ.

Dec. 5, 2021, 5-9pm. Last day to purchase tickets is November 26. Kelly W. A45 Chair P70 has graciously accepted our invitation to be our speaker. The topic she will present is

service. Thank you Kelly for your service! Our treasure reported \$528 Holiday ticket sales, check cut for 37.27 cost of printing tickets, balance \$4,901.51. Thank you all for your service in this Holiday Event.

Working on humility and responsibility.

Kevin H.

District 16 & 17 – no report

District 18 – Verbal Report

District 19 – no report

Area Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc – Verbal Report

Archives – No Report

Audio – Verbal Report

Budget & Finance – My name is Phil and I am an alcoholic.

Thank you for the chance to serve Area 45, first as a member and then later as chairperson of the budget and finance committee. And a special thank you to Andrew, Joe, George, Kelly, and Rich. We have done good work on this committee!

The financial health of Area 45 is strong at this time. Over the past 6 months, contributions have steadily increased. Contributions over the past few months are significantly more than we forecast when the current budget was being developed last summer and fall. Area expenses have been, and continue to be, less than we forecast in this budget. The current budget was developed while we were about 6 months into a global pandemic and while New Jersey was actively rolling back restrictions on gatherings. It's not a surprise that the reality of Area's financial situation today doesn't match up exactly with our assumptions from last year, but if your possible outcomes are having more funding than you thought or having less funding than you thought...I hope we can agree to agree that we're in an OK spot.

Since our last assembly, we have continued to support the hybrid meeting capability ad hoc committee. The more research the ad hoc committee did, the more manageable the price tag became. Thanks to everyone on the ad hoc for their hard work. In the committee portion later, there will be two motions related to the work of the hybrid meeting ad hoc committee. Based on my understanding of Area finances, and based on my work with ad hoc, I will simply say that

Area 45 possesses the funding to make the hybrid meetings a reality. Stick around for details of those two motions.

In the next couple months, it will be appropriate to amend the existing budget based on the enthusiastic rebound in contributions. It is a goal of our approved 2021-2022 budget to actually spend more money than we take in. I am not going to throw in the towel and admit defeat on that feature of our budget, but I will say that we COLLECTIVELY have a need for ideas to be met with actions. The incoming Area Committee has the resources to revisit past successes AND to do what hasn't even been considered yet.

Enjoy the holiday season and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

56th Annual 2022 Convention – Good afternoon

Congratulations to the new Area 45 panel and committee Chairs.

I am Laura your 56th 2022 Convention chair.

Registration opened on November 1st and I am happy to report as of yesterday, we have 84 registrations and 122 room nights.

“Sometime quickly, sometimes slowly” is our 2022 logo.

Jean, Public information has distributed registration flyers around the region and is available on our website area45convention.org to download. Help get the word out

Our Program chair and her committee have picked their speakers, and all were available to participate in our 2022 convention. Now that elections have come, our program committee are excited and will be reaching out for Area 45 committees to participate in workshops. You are more than welcome to reach out as well.

Our table manager will reach out as well to Area 45 committees that would like to set up your displays, there is an ample space for tables. We are excited to mention that Archives has a room of their own to display AA's history.

We recently went on retreat to the Bill Wilson House and on standby for a July date for the next convention committee.

We need volunteers at the convention to assist with our registration tables and for our marathon meetings that will run after the last speaker until 7am, Friday and Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you on March 18, 19, and 20th of 2022 at the Claridge hotel in Atlantic City.

Respectfully yours,

Laura H.

Cooperation with Professional Community/Public Information – My name is Michelle

and I'm an alcoholic. We continue to distribute aa literature to professionals in Area 45.

During last week's planning session we reviewed a power point presentation that we hope to share with doctors, nurses and other members of the medical field. Our hope in the next month or so is to finalize a workshop format to share with professionals in the community online.

If you are interested in joining us please email me, I will put my address in the chat. Our next planning meeting will meet online on Sunday November 28 @4:30. Thank you for your time

Corrections – Good Morning to All,

My name is Tressa It has been an honor a blessing & an adventure to have served as your Corrections Chair for this Panel! I am so grateful For having had the opportunity to serve Area 45. I apologize for not being present this morning I am working a new job and the hours do not allow me much flexibility. Here is my report.

I was able to attend a round up and Area 45 corrections had a table thank you Ken T for helping out while I was working and to all of those who participated in the round up it was a wonderful experience to be back doing service in person. However we're not so lucky with the State clearance process. We are still not able to get into the state prisons or the county jails. We have several jails and prisons that are in the process of receiving some literature that should be done by the end of the month. Our current balance is \$8500.90 with deposits of \$897.35 for the month of September October November. I am willing and available to work with the incoming chair & will do all I can to make that transition a smooth one. This is been a very hectic for me last year for me, I will be stepping away from every 45 service to pursue my education and addictions thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been such an honor to serve with such a dedicated AA service members. Yay for AA!

Love and

Service, Tressa

DCM/GSR Orientation –

6 GSR's

2 DCM's

1 Alt. DCM

Grapevine – no report

Jalcon – VACANT

Policy – The committee met virtually on October 21st and discussed the following items: 1) Reviewed the happenings from the Summer Assembly as they relate to this committee, 2) Discussed multiple suggestions for updating the Area Handbook, 3) Reviewed Third Legacy procedures, 4) Discussed each committee members' responsibility for the Fall Assembly, 5) Discussed a suggestion from our Delegate to consider moving the election assembly to October, and 6) Discussed the 2022 handbook cover.

The committee agreed on potential actions to be taken but did not want to solidify anything for the new policy committee. All suggestions are presented to Panel 72's Policy Committee to make their own decisions.

The past two years have been a wonderful learning experience. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position. Thank you to Tanya and Marcella for all your hard work. We could not have accomplished anything without them and I hope their policy journey continues into panel 72. Thank you again for the honor to be of service

Registration – Verbal Report

21 GSR 5

Alt GSR

5 DCM-

0 Alt DCM -

2 Section Leaders

6 Panel members

4 Past Delegates

6 Security

7 Area Committee Chairs

0 Int group Chair-

2 Visitors or non labeled -

Total attendees 58

(Recorded by the secretary)

Accessibility/Special Needs – VACANT

Virtual Tech – Verbal Report

Website – since last time I did my report it's been pretty much business as usual updating the area calendar and putting new flyers up on the website that type of stuff. I worked with Joe B on his email getting it forwarded to his personal account. I got to work with Kelly, George and Randi to get antivirus software put on the website a computer so that's good to go and that's about it. thank you

Newsletter – VACANT

Young People – VACANT

Area Panel Reports:

Secretary – My name is Randi J. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 45 Secretary.

Since our last assembly I've been to convention planning meetings and a convention unity event.

I went to support the Unity Picnic put on by Section 1 on September 12th in Mercer park.

I was asked to speak at 3 meetings. I continue doing my intergroup hotline commitment. I have finished an 8 week workshop going through the General Service Convention Final Report and now I have new weekly workshop taking us through the new service manual.

I was part of the ad hoc committee where we met several times to plan a solution to have hybrid meetings for the area 45 in the future.

I attended the Southwest Regional Forum for the weekend of October 8 -10 by zoom and the Jalcon convention October 16 by zoom.

I participated in the Area 45 Day of Sharing on October 23 where the intergroups met with the area to share ideas.

I attended the Waves Round up Convention November 5 – 8 put on by Cape Atlantic Intergroup. This was a great weekend and the panel was privileged to put on a workshop there and I had a great time doing so.

The past two days I've been at SSAASA6 the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly on zoom while simultaneously checking in on the East Central Regional Forum.

Two years and many emails have flown by since you elected me you Area 45 Secretary. It has been such a wonderful and growing experience for me. I am so grateful, I could never put a value on it, the time has been so precious. I thank you ever so much.

In love and service,

Randi

Registrar – Good morning Panel 70 and to all assembly attendees. My name is Scott P and I'm alcoholic, I happily serve as your Area 45 Registrar

Let me begin this report by thanking all of you for your participation. It certainly has been an exciting and most unpredictable panel term. Each of us has faced the roller coaster ride of the pandemic and here we are now stronger and wiser as trusted servants and as a fellowship. The question facing us now is where do we go from here? We are at the beginning of a whole new start in AA history. Today as we perform our area business and look to the future practicing the spirit of rotation I encourage all of you to make yourselves available for future service roles.

Participation is key for us as an area and for the future trusted servants to come. Passing on our experience is how we're able to keep it. Thank you again for your willingness to serve AA as a whole.

GSO had another training session on Nov 3rd 2021 and due to conflicting work schedule I was unable to attend. As previously mentioned GSO has suggested that groups begin using the new 9 digit Group ID or Net Suite #'s when identifying your groups 7th tradition contributions. If for some reason your group doesn't know the new numbers please feel free to reach out to me because the old 7 digit FNV #'s will begin being phased out in the near future with the completion of the transfer to the FC application at GSO. If your group doesn't have a GSR still reach out and we can look up your groups number and update a group contact allowing information to flow thru to your group by way of the Area and GSO.

I thank you all for this opportunity it's been my pleasure to serve our Area as Registrar and I'm looking forward to the next service commitment.

Respectfully Submitted, Scott P

Treasurer –

1) 2021 Expenditures

	Budget (Jan-Dec)	Actual (Jan-Oct)
Core	\$8410	\$3421
Committees	\$7050	\$3670
Events	\$8670	\$6009 (*)
Panel	\$8000	\$1371
Total	\$32130	\$14471

Projected End of Year Expenditures if no action: <\$17000 vs \$32130 Budget.

2) 2021 Contributions Jan-Oct

- Jan \$2003
- Feb \$2102
- Mar \$1851

- Apr \$2436
- May \$2263
- June \$2030
- July \$2871
- Aug \$2750
- Sept \$3330
- Oct \$3875
- Nov \$
- Dec. \$

Total \$25511
Plan \$18000

Thank to Groups and Individuals for Contributions!!

3) TD Bank Accounts (Nov 18)

- Operating \$50727
- Prudent Reserve \$30261
- Internat Conv Escrow. \$4000
- Total \$84988

4) Observations/Misc

- Oct Contributions \$3750 Up Alot at Pre-covid levels
- Underspending Largely Due to 2021 Assembly, Committee and Events being on zoom, not in person
- Sept suggestions to B&F Committee Opportunities to Use 2021 underspending funds thisnywar
 - a) Can prefund 2022 NERAASA Registration/Hotel (\$2500+)
 - b) Can pay 2021 the 2022 Area 45 Convntion Panel Registration and Hotel Rooms (\$2000)
 - c) Considered but decision not to increase Prudent Reserve (\$10000) for emergencies like Conction overruns.
- Taxes Files 2020 Form 990 Taxes (November)
- Worked with Lawyer on NJ 2019-2020 Coporate Reporting

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5) Next Panel B&F Chair should propose at Winter Assembly 2022 revised 2022 budget for Assembly review reflecting changes in contributions assembly and 2021 underspending for Spring 2022 Assembly.

B&F Chair followed this process in 2020 at beginning of current Panel.

6) Treasurer Transition

- Summary Page for New Treasurer
- Transition TD Authorizations
- Mail Box Key, Credit Cards and Recording/Deposit/Assembly Report Procedures
- Summary Group 2020-21 Contributions

Thanks Area 45 Groups for Contributions/B&F Committee for Service!

Chair – My name is Kelly W. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 45 Chair.

Since our last Assembly, I have had the honor of being the Anniversary Speaker for the West Windsor Group on September 9th as well as Maple Shade Tuesday night on November 9th. I am absolutely in awe of and have tons of appreciation for both of these groups. It was so lovely celebrating with you! I was also asked to speak at the Unity Picnic on September 12th where I shared my experience, strength, and hope as it relates to my General Service background. For someone who is terrified to speak at AA meetings, I think the universe might be trying to beat that out of me. I cannot say it has worked, but I'll get to practice again on December 5th where I have the privilege of speaking at the District 15 Holiday dinner dance. I'm really looking forward to attending a dance again so thank you so much for the invite.

I also attended the Day of Sharing on October 23rd which was coordinated by our Alternate Delegate Ken T. and hosted by Cape Atlantic Intergroup. This was such a great opportunity to share with others our experiences, particularly our efforts to keep AA services going in the face of a pandemic. Thank you all for such a worthwhile discussion.

In preparation for today's election assembly, I attended the Area 48 virtual elections and turnkeyed what I observed to our Area 45 Panel Election Committee. I've also worked closely with Joe E. our Ad hoc Chair as well as Phil K. from Budget and Finance to finalize motions that will be presented today during our committee meeting that hopefully will get us back to in-person Area events while keeping them accessible by being hybrid in nature.

I'd like to remind everyone to please keep checking our home page and calendar on our website at snjaa.org. We have quite a few upcoming events with flyers, information, and codes, notably NERAASA in February and of course, our Area 45 General Service Convention in March.

Two years have passed since you elected me your Area 45 Chair. It has been such a powerful experience for me, and I have learned more than I think I could ever quantify or adequately express. I thank you for your trust two years ago that I wouldn't screw it up, and I only hope that I leave the Area in good enough shape to make the transition of our newly elected Panel Offers and other service leaders as smooth and easy as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly W.

Alternate Delegate – Verbal Report

Delegate - My name is Rich H, and I am an alcoholic. I am honored to serve your delegate for Area 45 Panel 70. This is my final report.

First congratulations to all those who were chosen to serve as Panel 72 and special thanks to those who made themselves available but were not picked this time. Also, I offer a special thanks to the tech folks who carry us through so that we can conduct the business of AA virtually.

We have heard about how Area is doing financially and so I will just touch on AAWS's situation briefly. per Francis, our NE Regional Trustees, as of October 31, 2021, with 10 months or 83%, of the year completed: contributions received are 84% of budget, literature sales are around 85% of budget, payroll and benefits are rounded to 81% of budget, and total expenses weight-in at 81% of budget. With contributions and sales at 84% and 85% respectively and expenses coming in at 81%, AAWS has a 10-month surplus of \$1.92 million, unaudited, compared to a budget surplus of \$750,000; so, as Francis says, the consensus is still that we are still looking good! The hope is that AAWS might be able to return an added \$750,000 to the prudent reserve and bring it back up to 9.0 months.

In other news, The General Service Office employees are back at 475 Riverside Drive. the General Service Board issued on November 1, 2021, a draft report on the fourth quarterly meeting. The report is extensive, and I will spend time reviewing it with our new Delegate as it will form the To Do list for the next conference.

Some highlights. By September 15, the Conference desk received 178 proposed agenda items forms, some on the same items, which were all processed and sent to the right committee/board for the fourth quarter General Service Board weekend. The design, planning and implementation of the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process has overwhelmed the Conference assignment. I have shared with the past conference coordinator Patrick C my belief that we as a Conference did not give adequate reflection in enacting EDW and that its adoption may have been premature.

These 178 items include Area 45's request that the Conference look at how Chairs are picked for Delegate Conference Committees. The Trustee's Conference Committee felt that Delegates already have the choice to use the Third Legacy and so the change was not needed. While the Trustees are not wrong that the Delegates could demand that the 3rd Legacy be used, they missed the point that it is never mentioned and that in some cases the Conference staff steamroll using simple majority votes. But who knows, maybe someone will bring the issue up again.

Update on the development of the plain and simple language version of the Fourth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous: The Publishing department has been working closely with the a sub Committee of trustees' Literature and a RFI was

distributed to which a pool of eighteen (18) candidates responded – demonstrating professional experience writing in the fields: health & wellness, self-help, education, spirituality, psychology, sociology, government and policymaking, and more.

One of the ironies of being Delegate is my newfound love for Grapevine, which prior to being Delegate I thought should be scrapped or made digital only or whatever. Grapevine is now directly receiving the list of inmates who have reached out to help from AA and can report that Grapevine is officially at a deficit of carry the message subscriptions. Grapevine received a list of over 2000 requests from the Corrections desk and have only 1,200 English Carry the Message Grapevine Subscriptions and 401 La Vina subscriptions in the pool. So please report out to those that contributed their subscriptions are making it to prisoners and the need for more is real.

As to the Preamble: The Grapevine Board thoughtfully reviewed each of the seven or eight requests about the Preamble and took no action on any of them as the board was already preparing and sending an agenda item to discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship.

There is a lot more going on so if you or your district need or want more info, I would be glad to chat with you. But it has been a long day and now I need to pass this AA job on. I think that in the last decade a lot of solid work was done by all those in service to Area and I thank you for it.

Area's questionable legal structure and dubious financial controls have been bolstered so that we were able to continue to serve our groups throughout the pandemic. Sometimes long-term projects that are difficult are easy to put aside, to work on more short term and spectacular projects. But it is the unspectacular day to day work that I believe pays the greatest dividends.

To that end as we emerge from the pandemic, I believe a special attention must be paid to our districts and the sections of area 45. The districts and sections have been hammered by the disruptions that has affected all of us so greatly. Work on building up sections and districts in area 45 will pay dividends in the future.

on a personal note, leaving a job I love is in no way easy. About a dozen years ago I first joined area service as the budget and finance chair for the last half of panel 60. Since then, I have been in continuous service to area. I believe I have not missed he single assembly in that time. So obviously this is going to be a tremendous change for me personally. I'll have to start buying my own meals for one!

But I have to say that not only has this been a rewarding experience, but it has been a total blast. I have been able to travel to myriad events and meet amazing people all of which has changed my life for the better. And these gifts come at an exceedingly small price --a couple of hours of my time, all of which if I need to be fair would belong to this fellowship in gratitude for what I have received.

Thanks to everyone that helped me along, and especially Fred E, Joe O, and the late great John Kane. I would like to end with just a couple of thoughts.

Generally, do not contribute seventh tradition money to other entities that get their own 7th tradition contributions. we have an obligation to constructively use the contributions received to carry the message locally, and not to regift funds received to New York or any other entity.

Get informed. Get informed. Get informed.

Be Bold.

And do not forget, Humility + Responsibility = Progress Thanks for letting me serve, Rich H

Motion #1: Move that the current name of the Special Needs Committee be changed to the Accessibility Committee (Ken T.)

Motion Passed

Motion #2: Move that the Virtual Tech Committee be established as a standing committee of Area 45 (Ken T.)

Motion Passed

Motion #3: Move that the Area approves updates to the 2022 Area 45 Handbook (Policy Committee)

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned

Area Committee Meeting

Meeting Begins. 2:16 PM

Motion #1: The Ad Hoc committee moves that the Area approves a \$2,000 for the equipment needed to host area events in a hybrid format.

Friendly amendment: increase the amount to \$2500 as a budget

Motion passed

Motion #2: The Area 45 Budget and Finance Committee recommends the following amendment to the approved 2021-2022 budget. The Core Expenses budget line item for "Virtual Platform" in 2022 will be increased by \$660, from an approved amount of \$175 to \$835

(Goes to next assembly agenda)

Meeting adjourned